



WHAT IF ELIZABETH I HAD MARRIED?

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

20 weirdest
weapons

Pigeon-guided missiles
& bazooka scooters



WORLD WAR II'S DEADLIEST FEUD

HITLER VERSUS STALIN

Uncover the Nazi crusade to
conquer the Soviet Union and
why it was doomed to failure

**LONDON'S
BURNING**

Inside the tragedy that
changed the capital

Toughest castles
Battle of Port Arthur
Louis XIV: The Sun King

**Drinking
with the devil**

How absinthe intoxicated
the bohemian underworld

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ISSUE 42

**The fight for
gay rights**

Stonewall 1969: the birth
of the LGBT revolution



In the depths of the night
something stirred in London
that would change the city forever ...



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‘This strikingly illustrated account of the
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On page 54, discover how absinthe became the poet's poison in 19th-century Paris

Welcome

Whether you're curled up with a glass of red, watching the wigs and flickering candlelight of a period drama, or scouring *Ancestry.com* for clues about your past, history is never more alive than when we discover the people and the stories behind the statistics.

I can tell you that Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union was one of the bloodiest military offensives ever, but what does that really mean without the accounts of the soldiers and civilians that were just unfortunate enough to be born in the wrong decade? After all, history is the story of us - who we could have been or what we could have experienced. As Stephen Fry said: "History is not abstraction, it is the enemy of abstraction."

Since its launch, *All About History* has been all about people. Topics may trigger hazy memories of facts and stats from school, but this time the lessons are much more moving, surprising and often frightful than we could fathom back then. Each issue is like stepping inside a TARDIS and time-travelling to somewhere new. So let's get going!



Jodie Tyley
Editor

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How to train as a knight
Becoming a sword-wielding, horse-riding warrior in Medieval Europe has never been easier than with our How To guide. Be warned: training starts at an early age.

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London's burning
Explore the origins and aftermath of the inferno that devastated the capital 350 years ago this September. The city landscape was never the same again.

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Weirdest weapons
War drives technological innovations, but not all of them are actually useful. Discover 20 of the most downright bizarre - pigeon-guided missiles included.

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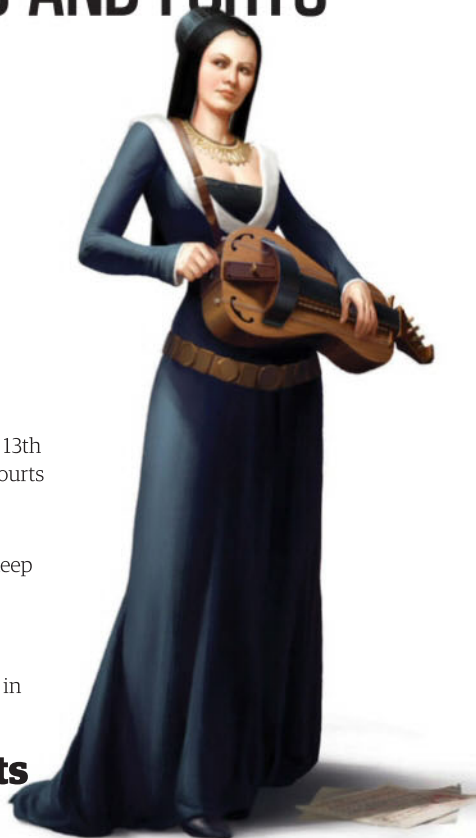
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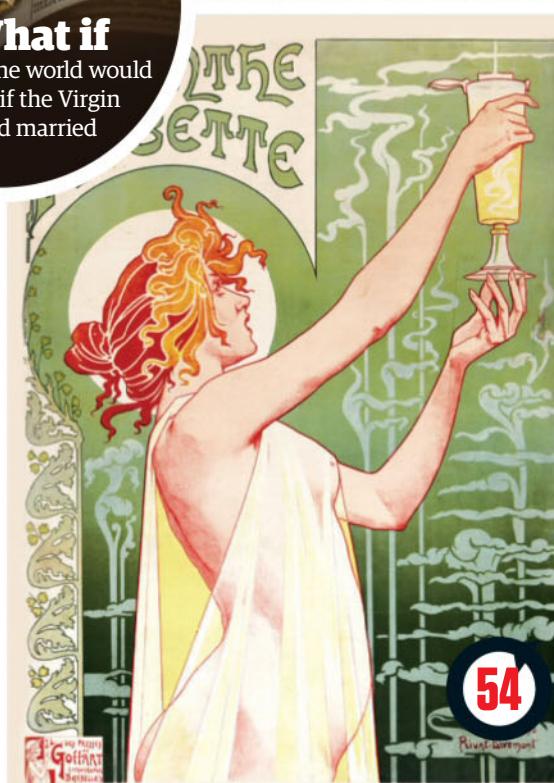
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84 What if

Find out how the world would be different if the Virgin Queen had married



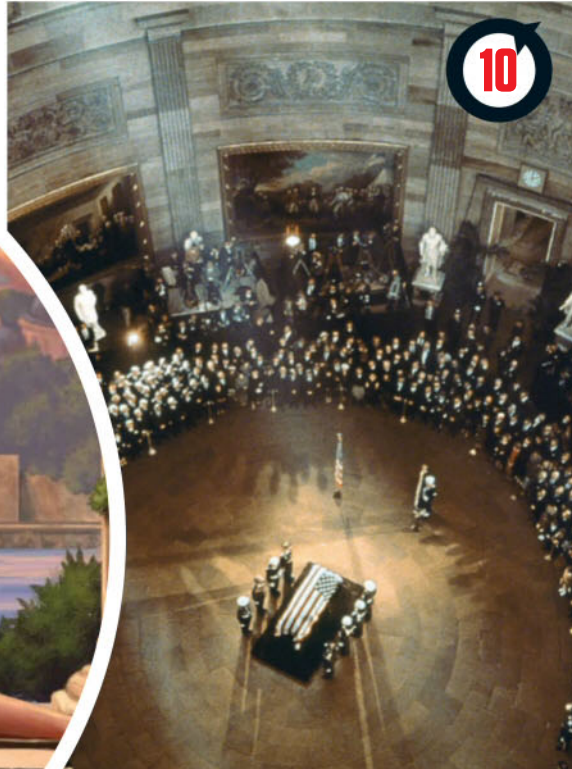
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54



68



10





HISTORY IN PICTURES

LAUNCHING TORCH

American troops crash onto a beach at Arezeu, Algeria, as part of Operation Torch – the Allied invasion of Algeria and Morocco, both controlled by Vichy France. While Britain's Desert Rats were still battling with Rommel's Afrika Korps further east, this US-led invasion of Axis-controlled Africa aimed to liberate France's protectorates, while also striking a blow to the Vichy regime.

1942



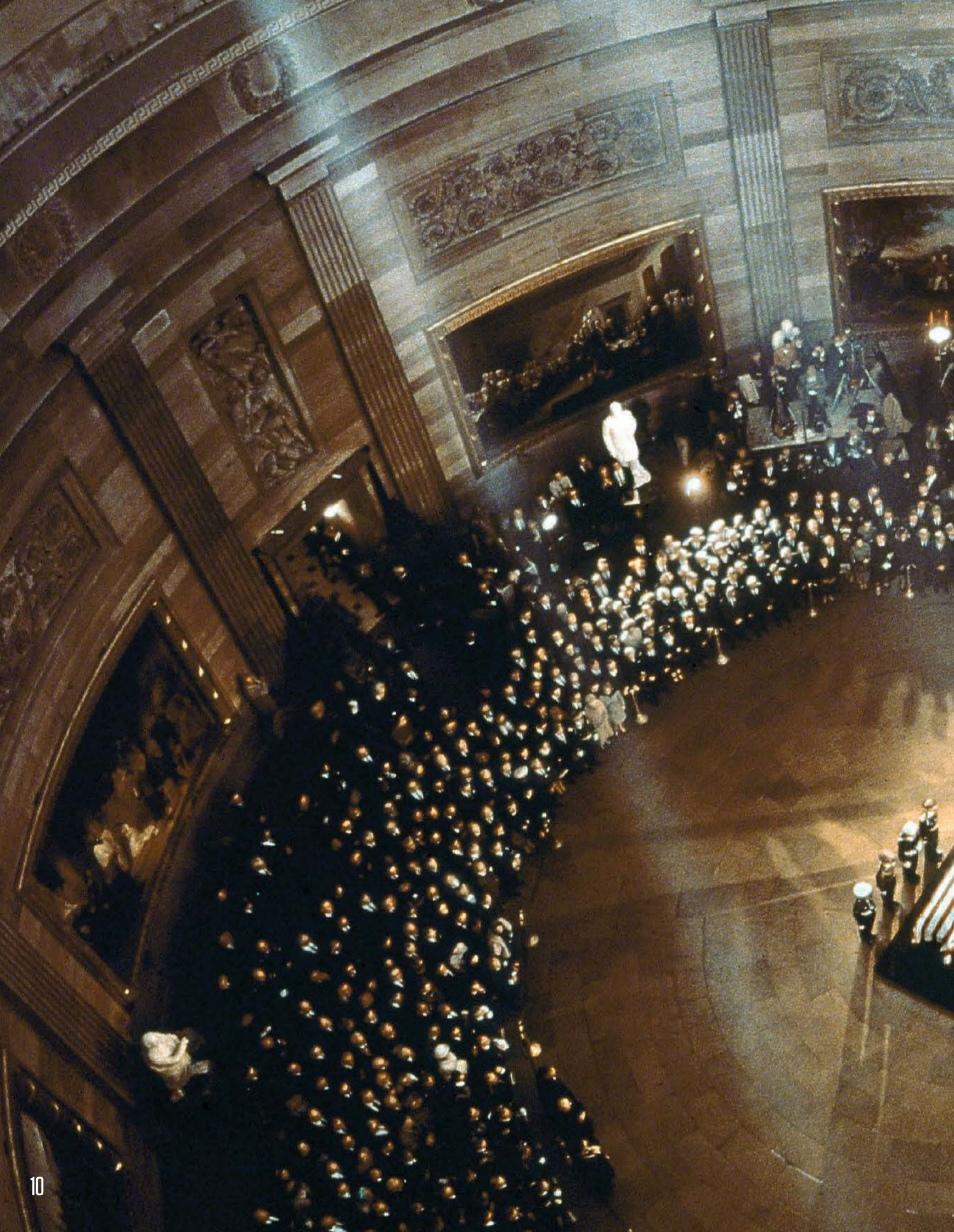
HISTORY IN PICTURES

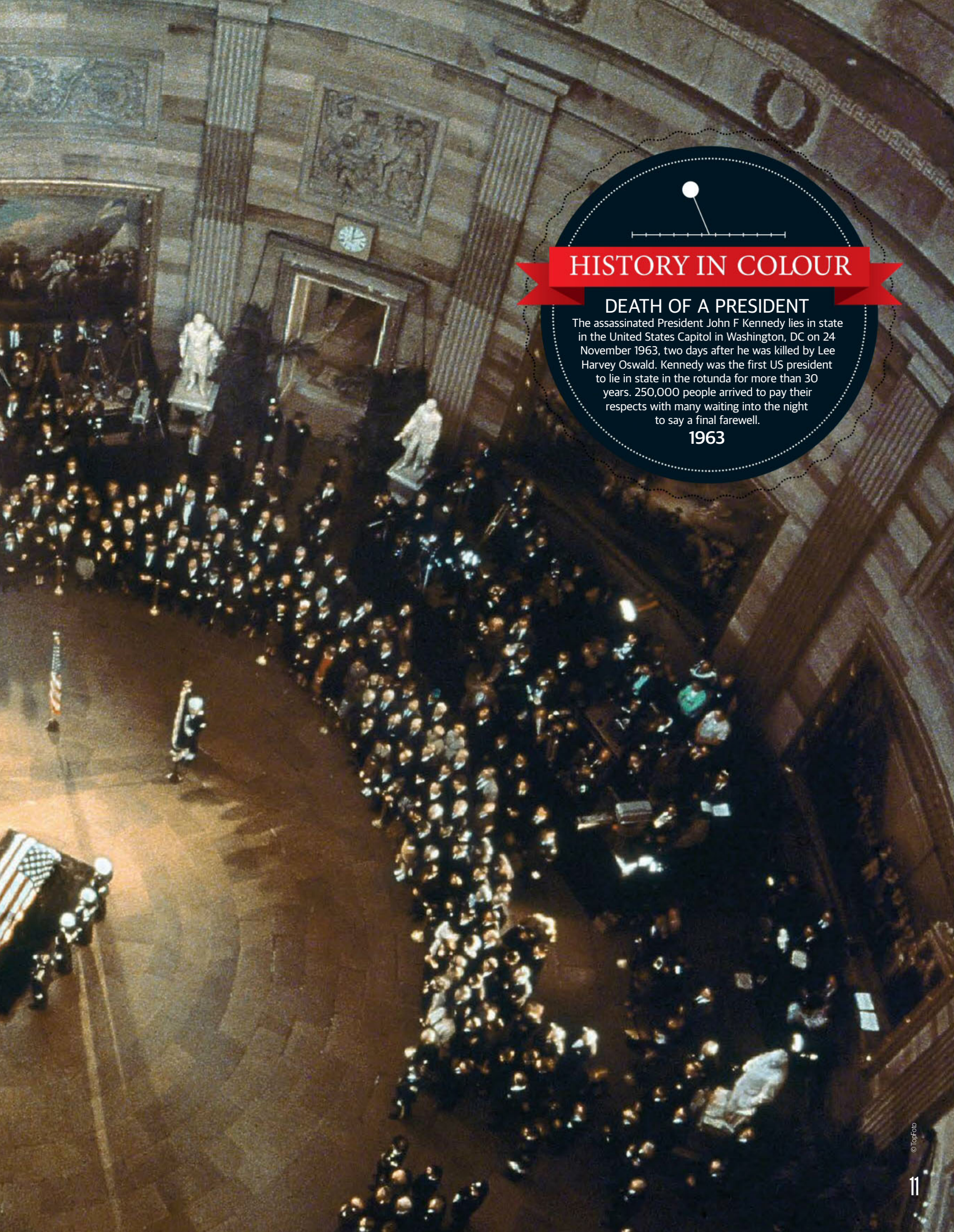
REBEL ARREST

On 18 July 1936, the Spanish Civil War began as a group of right-wing military officers attempted a coup to overthrow the left-wing Popular Front government. The war resulted in the deaths of 500,000 people and 450,000 others fled from the country. This picture of an arrested rebel officer being taken triumphantly through the streets of Madrid was among the first to be received by mail out of Spain.

1936







HISTORY IN COLOUR

DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

The assassinated President John F Kennedy lies in state in the United States Capitol in Washington, DC on 24 November 1963, two days after he was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald. Kennedy was the first US president to lie in state in the rotunda for more than 30 years. 250,000 people arrived to pay their respects with many waiting into the night to say a final farewell.

1963

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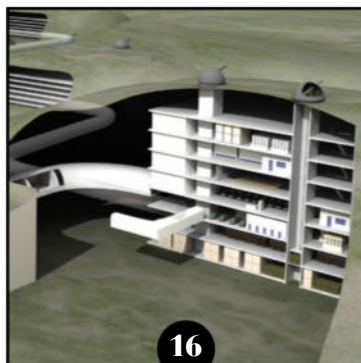
ALL ABOUT

CASTLES & FORTS

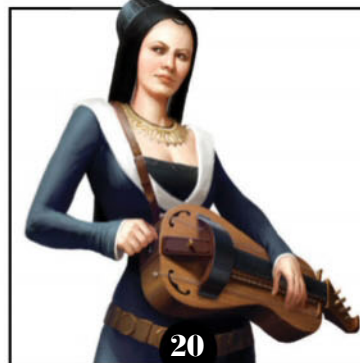
Explore the military strongholds that have secured the influence of nations and nobles around the world for centuries



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Castles across history

From simple forts to town-sized structures, castles have stood the test of time as some of the most evocative architecture

ROMAN FORTS CONSTRUCTED

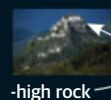


Recognisable as the earliest form of castles, Roman forts generally comprise wooden or stone walls on top of a rampart, which itself has a large ditch running around the outside.

HOCHOSTERWITZ CASTLE A FEAT OF AUSTRIAN CASTLE CONSTRUCTION

It is situated on a

172-METRE



high rock

On a clear day it is visible from a distance of up to

30 KILOMETRES

14 GATES

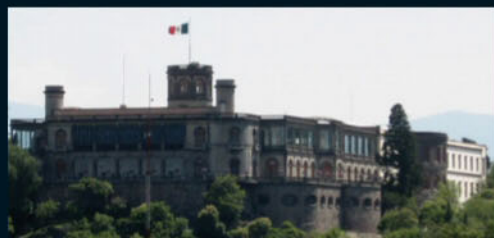
lead up to the castle, for fortification purposes

509 BCE – 476

860

CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE BUILT

The impression of power offered by the construction of castles is recognised across the Atlantic, with this one being used as the residence for Mexican Emperor Maximilian I. Symbolically, it is built on what was formerly sacred Aztec ground.



EUROPEAN GOTHIC CASTLE AGE

Moving beyond being solely functional, castles increasingly become more grandiose, encompassing spectacular designs and wide open spaces. Once such example is Malbork Castle in Poland, which survives today.



JAPANESE CASTLES BECOME WIDESPREAD



Matsumoto Castle is one such example of these fortresses intended to guard important strategic sites. However, their wooden structures make them vulnerable, and having once numbered as many as 5,000, only about 100 remain today.

C.1785-1863

17TH CENTURY

14TH-16TH CENTURY

BALMORAL CASTLE BECOMES A ROYAL RESIDENCE

20,000

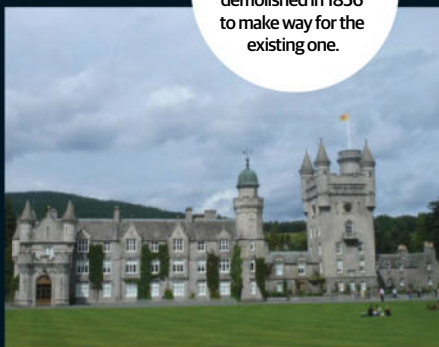
The number of hectares encompassed by the castle's estate

£32,000

The price paid by Prince Albert to buy the castle

70,000

The number of visitors the castle receives per year



The original Balmoral Castle was built in 1390, but was demolished in 1856 to make way for the existing one.

ROLE REPRISE IN WWI

In modern times, castles retain their military value. The Verdun forts are one such example. Having been constructed as early as the Franco-Prussian war, they are important strategic positions in the Battle of Verdun.



1852

1914-18

MOTTE-AND-BAILEY CASTLES BUILT IN BRITAIN



Similar in design to Roman forts – only more formidable looking – these consist of two parts: the motte (a raised mound with a fortified tower) and a bailey (a courtyard encircled by a ditch).

1066

THE FIRST STONE KEEPS

To combat the motte-and-bailey castles' vulnerability to siege weapons (most notably fire), they become better protected, with the motte being replaced by a stone keep, which in turn is then protected by a thick stone wall.



1070

CATHAR CASTLES DEVELOPED

Named to denote the Christian 'Cathars' and located primarily in the Languedoc region in southern France, Cathar castles are intended as safe havens, and are thus constructed high up on mountaintops.



Montségur castle in France was the last remaining Cathar stronghold, and finally fell after ten months of siege in 1244.

12TH CENTURY

CANNON ENDS THE CLASSIC AGE OF CASTLES

With the invention of gunpowder, castles become increasingly more vulnerable to their explosive potential. Star forts are a response to this, combining lower walls with deeper ditches in a star shape.



Originating in Italy, by the 18th century star forts existed in France, Germany, Croatia, Hungary and Japan.

EUROPEAN COLONIALISM SPREADS CASTLES TO AFRICA

534 YEARS

The age of Elmina Castle – the oldest European building below the Sahara

1814

The year the castle stopped playing host to the slave trade – its primary purpose at this point

4

The number of nations that have owned the castle (Portugal, Netherlands, Britain and now Ghana)



CONCENTRIC CASTLES TAKE SHAPE

Continuing the progressive evolution of castle defences, even more walls are added to later examples. The further away from the castle, the lower the walls are (to allow for archers), and a moat often encircles it.



15TH CENTURY

1482

13TH CENTURY

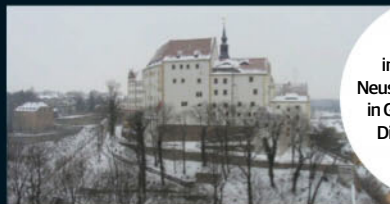
VITAL TO WORLD WAR II

During World War II, in which any space is valued, some castles become key areas of operation. For example, Dover Castle serves as an air-raid shelter, a military command centre and an underground hospital.



KEEPING PEOPLE IN AS WELL AS OUT

Some structures also find use as prisons. One of the most evocative examples is Colditz in Germany, which becomes renowned for the many escape attempts made by POWs within its walls.



Taking inspiration from Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, the first Disney castle was built in 1955.

SOURCES OF ENTERTAINMENT



Today, castles have become symbols of entertainment. Take Disney's Sleeping Beauty castles, which are hosted across its various resorts, or Harry Potter's Hogwarts (replicated in Orlando, Florida), for examples.

1939-45

1939-45

20TH-21ST CENTURY

THE MAGINOT LINE

CONCRETE FORTIFICATIONS TO KEEP FRANCE'S ENEMIES AT BAY 1930S

As the 1919 Treaty of Versailles was signed amid the ashes of World War I, the fate of Europe was sealed. Harsh sanctions were placed on Germany, including reparations totalling 132 billion marks, severe military disarmaments and - worst of all - acceptance of all war guilt, which effectively crippled the ambitious nation. Yet France feared the day Germany would seek revenge. With a shared border and a mutual hostility, France foresaw the vengeance that Germany - united by its disgust for the treaty - would unleash in its land, and sought a means to prevent the bitter annihilation it had suffered mere years before.

French officials gathered, seeking a means of holding off the inevitable invasion. Plans for a line of fortifications surfaced, and André Maginot, minister of war, managed to obtain 3.3 billion francs for funding. By 1930, work on the secret project was well under way, with the underground fortress spanning the entire Franco-German border. Disturbed by Belgium's declaration of neutrality in 1936, the Maginot Line was expanded further both north and south, though the extensions were considerably weaker than the original complex.

Impressive though it might have been, the French underestimated German forces. With the days of trench warfare long gone, French ministers miscalculated Germany's advancements with weaponry and planes, which all served to undermine the effectiveness of the Maginot Line.

When war was declared on 3 September 1939, the faith of French citizens was placed in the Maginot Line, but it was the strength of the fortification that ultimately brought about France's catastrophic demise. Acting like a funnel, the line propelled German soldiers to the weakest point on the border: the Ardennes. Here, the line faltered and ended, with officials assuming that its forestry would be deterrent enough for the Germans. It wasn't.

The Maginot Line had failed. By June 1940, German troops had stormed Paris, and the illusion of safety that the Maginot Line had once offered French citizens was shattered once and for all.

Observation posts

Observation posts above ground featured panoramic photomurals of the surrounding landscape from that particular vantage point, which would identify all the visible landmarks - and therefore any unexpected extras to the landscape. Cloches (French for 'bells') were similar fortified turrets that provided both observation and defence. More than 1,500 were built, and each cloche could hold two men.

The Métro

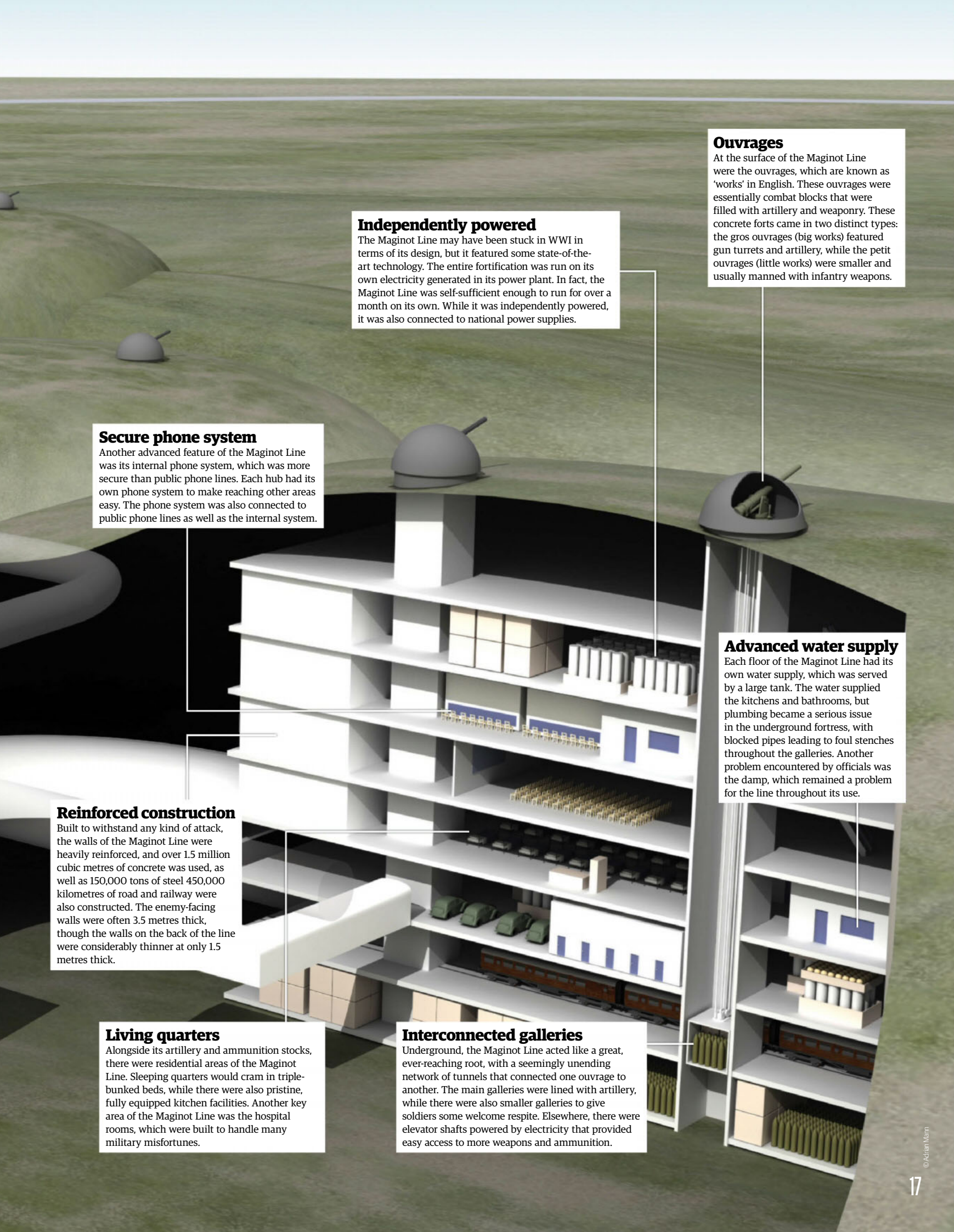
In the event of enemy action, speed would be of the essence, so a train line was installed underground to provide quick and easy transportation of ammunition and additional firepower. Known as the Métro, like its Parisian counterpart, the trains were powered by electricity. Despite the efficiency of the train, soldiers themselves had to walk. Above was a monorail track that could also transport goods quickly from one part of the fortification to another.

Air filtration

Air inside the fortification was kept at a higher pressure than outside, which meant that air could not seep into the Maginot Line. The air that was brought in to the Maginot Line came through a filtration system, which rid it of any toxic gases or poisons.

Did you know?

WWI hero and politician André Maginot criticised the fortifications of Verdun, which survived a German siege at great cost.



Ouvrages

At the surface of the Maginot Line were the ouvrages, which are known as 'works' in English. These ouvrages were essentially combat blocks that were filled with artillery and weaponry. These concrete forts came in two distinct types: the gros ouvrages (big works) featured gun turrets and artillery, while the petit ouvrages (little works) were smaller and usually manned with infantry weapons.

Independently powered

The Maginot Line may have been stuck in WWI in terms of its design, but it featured some state-of-the-art technology. The entire fortification was run on its own electricity generated in its power plant. In fact, the Maginot Line was self-sufficient enough to run for over a month on its own. While it was independently powered, it was also connected to national power supplies.

Secure phone system

Another advanced feature of the Maginot Line was its internal phone system, which was more secure than public phone lines. Each hub had its own phone system to make reaching other areas easy. The phone system was also connected to public phone lines as well as the internal system.

Advanced water supply

Each floor of the Maginot Line had its own water supply, which was served by a large tank. The water supplied the kitchens and bathrooms, but plumbing became a serious issue in the underground fortress, with blocked pipes leading to foul stench throughout the galleries. Another problem encountered by officials was the damp, which remained a problem for the line throughout its use.

Reinforced construction

Built to withstand any kind of attack, the walls of the Maginot Line were heavily reinforced, and over 1.5 million cubic metres of concrete was used, as well as 150,000 tons of steel. 450,000 kilometres of road and railway were also constructed. The enemy-facing walls were often 3.5 metres thick, though the walls on the back of the line were considerably thinner at only 1.5 metres thick.

Living quarters

Alongside its artillery and ammunition stocks, there were residential areas of the Maginot Line. Sleeping quarters would cram in triple-bunked beds, while there were also pristine, fully equipped kitchen facilities. Another key area of the Maginot Line was the hospital rooms, which were built to handle many military misfortunes.

Interconnected galleries

Underground, the Maginot Line acted like a great, ever-reaching root, with a seemingly unending network of tunnels that connected one ouvrage to another. The main galleries were lined with artillery, while there were also smaller galleries to give soldiers some welcome respite. Elsewhere, there were elevator shafts powered by electricity that provided easy access to more weapons and ammunition.

1 BRAN

MEDIEVAL FORTRESS, ROMANIA

Transylvania's Bran castle is associated with the legend of Dracula, but has next to nothing to do with Bram Stoker's fictional creation. Built in 1377 by Louis I of Hungary to protect an important strategic point of his empire, Bran continued to be a significant force in the region, even withstanding an Ottoman bombardment in 1442. Then, in 1920, its role changed to royal residence when it became the home of the Romanian royal family.

2 TOOMPEA

BAROQUE PALACE, ESTONIA

After Danish forces under Valdemar II swept into Tallinn, overrunning the city's wooden fortification, a stone castle was built in its place by the Livonian Brothers of the Sword. When Russian forces took over Estonia in the 18th century, Catherine the Great ordered a new construction that would act as her administration hub. Today, Toompea is the home of Estonia's parliament, the Riigikogu.

3 CAERNARFON

CONCENTRIC, WALES

To help smash Welsh resistance in 1283, the aggressive King Edward I built a series of castles in the lands he conquered, and the one designed as his seat of power was Caernarfon. The fortress proved impregnable to Welsh forces throughout the 13th and 14th centuries and even stood firm during the Glyndŵr Rising a century later. It was only eventually toppled in the Civil War when Parliamentarian cannon was too much for the stone walls.

4 KRAK DES CHEVALIERS

CRUSADER CASTLE, SYRIA

When the Crusader knights ventured east, they erected a number of castles to aid their conquest of the Holy Land. Krak des Chevaliers is one of the largest of them all and was built by men from the Knights Hospitaller. Its rule changed hands many times during the Crusades, as it was an important strategic position with room to garrison 2,000 men.

5 MAIDEN

HILL FORT, ENGLAND

Built on an area first settled in the Neolithic era, Maiden Castle was home to the Celtic Durotriges tribe. The Iron Age hill fort was the largest in England and had six-metre-high earth ramparts that made it a formidable adversary to many would-be invaders. It was still no match for Emperor Vespasian's Roman juggernaut though, and after a bloody battle in 43 CE, it came under Roman rule and was turned into a temple to the gods.

Hall of Fame TOUGHEST CASTLES

The stone strongholds and mountain citadels that protected nations, administered the law of the land and housed royal dynasties for centuries

Vlad the Impaler was imprisoned in Bran for two months but that is as far as the links to Dracula go

1



Toompea's most iconic structure is the 46-metre-high Pikk Hermann Tower

2



Krak des Chevaliers's architecture is a hybrid of Byzantine, Ayyubid and Frankish styles

4



Caernarfon castle cost £22,000 to build, more than the treasury's yearly income

3

Caernarfon's King's Gate was heavily defended with a stone ramp, drawbridge, five doors and six portcullises



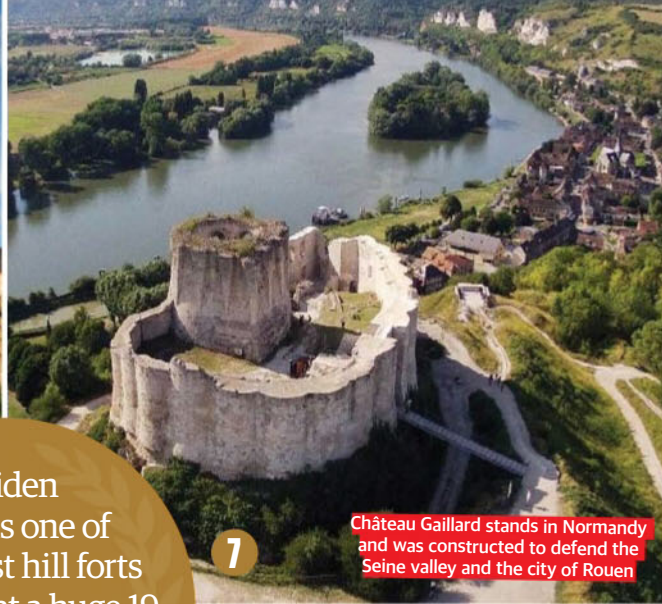
'Maiden' comes from the Celtic 'Mai Dun', which means 'great hill'

5



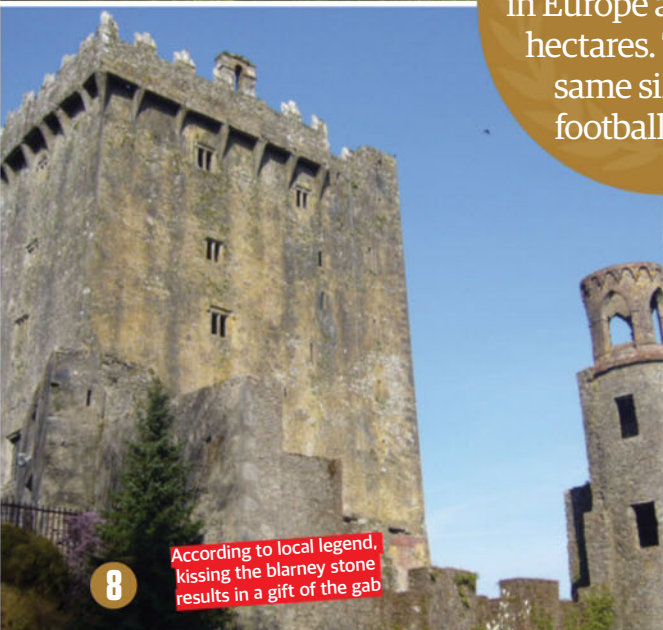
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British forces likened Gyantse Dzong to the Rock of Gibraltar



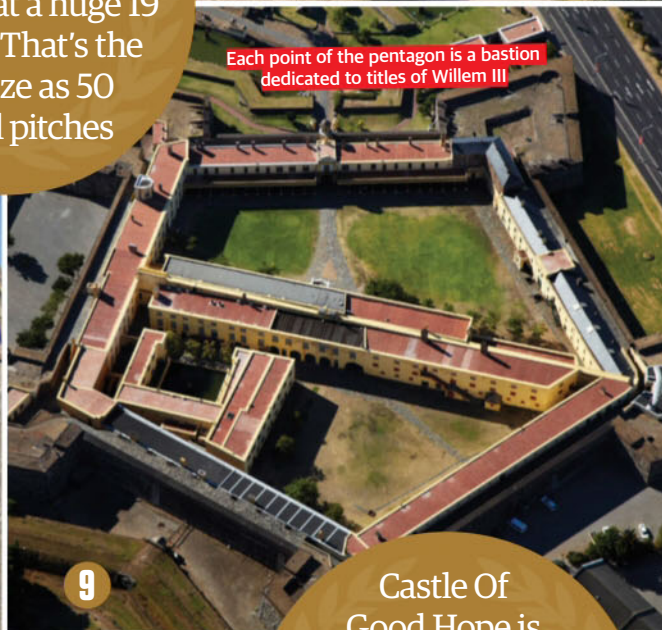
7

Château Gaillard stands in Normandy and was constructed to defend the Seine valley and the city of Rouen



8

According to local legend, kissing the blarney stone results in a gift of the gab



9

Each point of the pentagon is a bastion dedicated to titles of Willem III

Castle Of Good Hope is the oldest building still in use in South Africa and is believed to be haunted by ghosts of colonial governors



The picturesque castle was the inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle

10

6 GYANTSE DZONG

DZONG FORTRESS, TIBET

Standing high up in the Himalayas, this citadel was first constructed in the 9th century. However, it didn't reach prominence until the late-14th century when the kings of Gyantse made it their royal residence. Tucked away in the mountains, the fortress endured its greatest test when the British arrived in December 1903. It still stands today as a symbol of Tibetan resistance despite being dynamited during the Cultural Revolution.

7 CHÂTEAU GAILLARD

NORMAN KEEP, FRANCE

Built in the 12th century under the orders of Richard the Lionheart, the castle was one of the finest of its age. As well as a stone keep, a separate compound known as the châtelet was built to protect the eastern side of the cliff. The castle endured its greatest siege under the stewardship of Roger de Lacy in 1203 when Philip II besieged it. The French king finally broke through after eight long months after the garrisons' supplies ran out.

8 BLARNEY STONE KEEP, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Much more than just the famous stone the castle shares its name with, Blarney Castle withstood overseas attacks for centuries. The current 15th-century structure is the third to be built on the site after a wooden fort and a previous stone building. The castle held out against Elizabeth I's army but was eventually taken by Oliver Cromwell's general, Lord Broghill, after the defenders fled through tunnels to fight another day.

9 CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

STAR FORT, SOUTH AFRICA

The headquarters of the Dutch East India Company during the occupation of South Africa, the fort was built between 1666-79 as a replenishment centre for ships on their way east. Despite being kitted out with gunpowder magazines on each of its five points and a wide moat, it didn't see much action and was primarily an administrative centre.

10 NEUSCHWANSTEIN

NEO-GOTHIC CASTLE, GERMANY

This fairy tale-like castle is the mad king of Bavaria Ludwig II's legacy. Tucked away in the Alps, it was built as the centrepiece of a new kingdom after the Austro-Prussian War, when Ludwig ceased to be a recognised sovereign ruler. Work began in 1869 but Ludwig wasn't able to move in until 1873. In total, only a dozen rooms were finished and Ludwig only lived there for six months before his mysterious death.

THE
Anatomy
of

TROBAIRITZ

OCCITANIA, 13TH CENTURY

LYRICAL LIMITATION

ONLY A FEW SUBJECTS WERE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR WOMEN

The male counterpart to a trobairitz was a troubadour. The former was often the subject of the latter's writings and, on the whole, women were not allowed to express themselves as freely as men. It wasn't considered acceptable for them to write about anything more than love and appearance.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

FROM LUTES AND FIDDLES TO REBECs

While the men were off fighting in the Crusades, women were expected to stay in the courts and provide entertainment. Noblewomen were required to sing, play instruments and jot down their deepest emotions. This happened more in Occitania than anywhere else, as the society was one of the most accepting of women.

A TOUCH OF CLASS

OCCITANIA WAS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO BE AS A NOBLEWOMAN

Trobairitz are unique for the era as they wrote under their own name rather than using a male alias, which was a popular practice at the time. They were in the upper crust of Occitanian society, and their equivalents in the lower classes were known as joglaresa.

MUSICAL PIONEERS

TROBAIRITZ WERE THE FIRST OF THEIR KIND

'Trobairitz' comes from the Occitan word 'trobar', which means 'to compose'. They were the first known female authors of secular music in the Western world and their inspiration often came from life in a castle while the men were campaigning.

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC DISPLAY?

THE HEARTFELT LYRICS COULD BE TOO POIGNANT FOR OTHERS TO HEAR

Lyrics often focused on what was desirable in a man: kindness and maturity, not expertise in combat or acting macho.

Some of the songs were so personal that historians debate whether they were actually sung to an audience or just a sorrowful private lament.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

TROBAIRITZ FEAT JOGLAR

Sometimes the trobairitz would pen the heartfelt lyric but not perform it themselves. In this instance, the delivery would be handled by a 'joglar', a court performer who would elaborate on the composition with their own take on the meaning behind the words.

GENDER DIFFERENCES

LYRICS BORE TELLTALE SIGNS OF THE WRITER

A trobairitz lyric could be very different from one written by a troubadour. The women made more use of rhyme and were overall more direct in their meaning and message with less emphasis on word play. Trobairitz wrote about things that were relatable while troubadour output was more idealistic and abstract.



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Day in the life

CONTINENTAL ARMY STAR FORT GENERAL

THE MEN WORKING GRUELLING HOURS TO
KEEP THE BRITISH AT BAY, USA, 1775-83

Running a fort during the American War of Independence was a tricky business. The threat of a rampaging British army was constant and generals were under pressure to hold forts to protect key strategic locations. If one fell, it would give the British a foothold in an area they could plunder for resources and use as a base for military operations. Some stone star forts had been built on wooden frontier forts, established to encourage settlement further west in the colonial era. Now, it wasn't just settlers that needed protecting - the future of the Thirteen Colonies was at stake.

INSPECT DEFENCES

The general's most important task of the morning was to make sure that all of the defences were well maintained and up to scratch. Any weaknesses in the walls of the fort would seriously hinder the structure in the face of a siege. Natural defences like water and hills were utilised to the fort's advantage and would help repel invaders, making a general's life slightly easier.

LOCAL LINKS

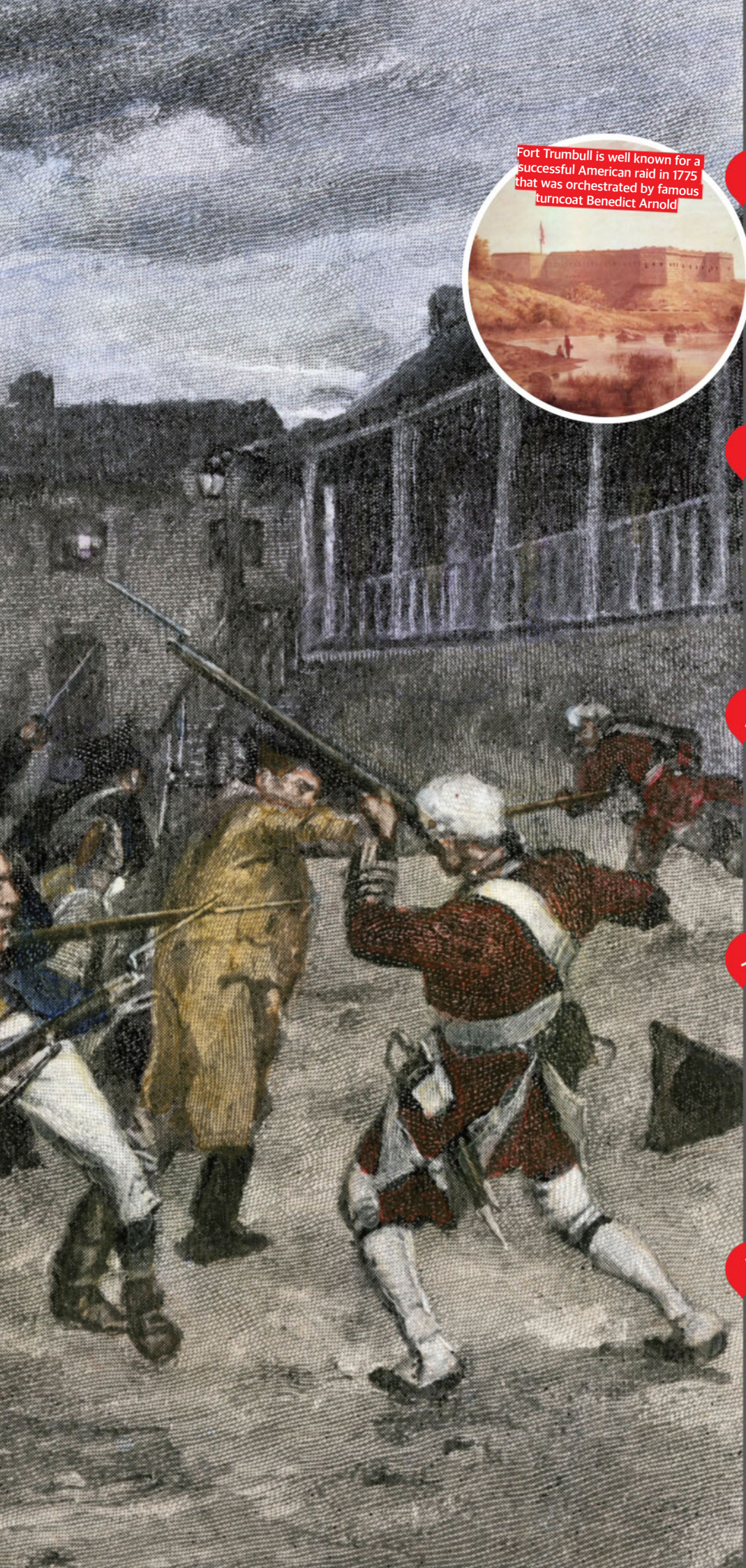
Star forts were constructed with the protection of towns, trade routes and strategic locations in mind. Locals loyal to the cause were hired for manpower and a fort would be built up and defended according to the importance of the location. Fort Washington and Fort Lee, both located in New York, were two of the most vital of all the colonial forts and helped protect the River Hudson from the Royal Navy.

RALLY THE TROOPS

In the early afternoon, the general would visit the barracks to ensure that his men were performing at the top of their game in both marksmanship and tactics. The British and their Native American allies could arrive at any time and besiege the fort, and in such a case defences would need to be rallied on short notice. The majority of Native Americans sided with the British during the war.

After the American War of Independence, Bedloe's Island (now Liberty Island) was fortified as a star-shaped land battery.





Fort Trumbull is well known for a successful American raid in 1775 that was orchestrated by famous turncoat Benedict Arnold



ENSURE STOREROOMS ARE STOCKED

As well as training troops, supplies needed to be kept stocked up in preparation for a lengthy siege. Resources of the local area were taken for the military cause, and if the site was tactically important, cannon and ammunition would be brought in from across the colonies. The forts could also be used as makeshift prisons for both political and military prisoners.

RENDEZVOUS WITH SUPERIORS

Leaders had to be kept in the know, and any and all reconnaissance had to be passed on to them. The movements of both friendly and enemy forces were monitored and the garrison of the fort would respond accordingly. Troops could be mobilised and sent to support other areas held by the patriots or told to batten down the hatches if the British were on their way.

FORT UNDER ATTACK

Should the British arrive, it is likely they would demand a surrender that wouldn't be forthcoming. The redcoats would then strike from all directions at dusk with Hessian support. The general's job in this case was to marshal the defences and return fire as huge batteries of mortars and howitzers pummelled the walls. If the attacking army was too strong, the defenders could flee or try to hold out until help arrived.

THE PATRIOT RELIEF COLUMN ARRIVES

With any luck, a relief column of patriot troops would intercept the British soldiers attacking the stronghold, but if they were unable to completely stop the siege, the fort would have to endure another sustained bombardment. At this point, it would now be imperative that supplies were kept up, and the general would have to ensure the mood didn't turn to panic. All guns would be constantly manned and all ammunition used, as the general did his best to sustain morale.

END OF ANOTHER DAY AT WAR

When the relief column had done its job, the siege would be halted before it could do lasting damage to the fort. All that would be left for the general to do was reconstruct the broken battlements, making his fort as close to impregnable as possible in the face of further assaults. This would begin anew the next morning with an inspection of the defences.

How to TRAIN AS A KNIGHT

BECOMING AN ELITE CAVALRY WARRIOR TOOK MORE THAN A DECADE OF DEDICATION EUROPE, 1400S

Across much of Medieval Europe, the feudal system of grants of land made in return for service held sway. Kings gave vast areas to their wealthiest nobles in return for military support. Similarly, those nobles gave smaller plots to lower lords, who ultimately rented it to peasants to farm. Yet while kings and higher nobles weren't strangers to battle, it was those lower lords, or knights, who were the true warrior class. Their fighting skills were so valued that they were often ransomed if captured in combat. Small wonder, then, that acquiring those skills took years of determination and dedication.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



Shield

For defence, but also for identification in the heat of confused battle via the knight's decorative coat of arms.

Lance

Some four metres in length, it has a blunt, flat end for jousting, but is sharpened for combat.

Armour

By 1400, full plate steel armour offers near full-body protection. The bascinet helmet encasing the head gives a menacing look.

Horse

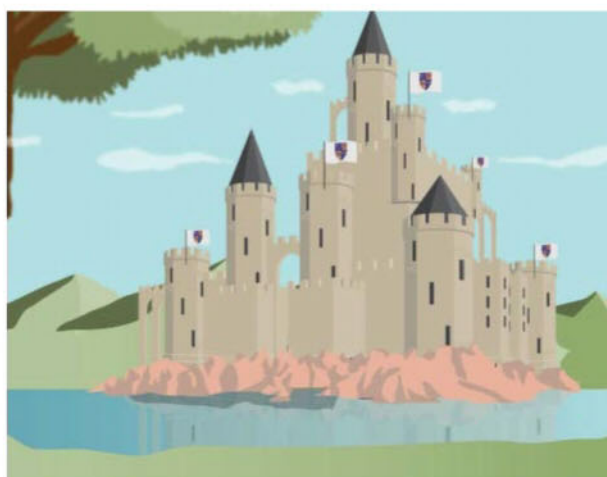
The destrier breed is favoured, being strong, quick and agile, though others such as coursers or rouncys are widely used.

Covering

A caparison reflecting the knight's coat of arms adorns his charger for jousts. For warfare, horse armour called barding may be worn.



**MOUNTED
WARRIOR**



01 Be lucky at birth

While it is not unheard of for sons of lowly peasants to rise to knighthood, it helps greatly to be born of noble, wealthy stock. Offspring of lordly knights with access to expensive horses and equipment have all the advantages, yet you will still have to prove yourself worthy of honour in the daunting years ahead.



02 Play gets serious

Around the age of seven, young boys take on the role of page to a lord. As one, you'll begin to learn skills like archery, falconry and of course horsemanship, as well being taught chivalry - the codes by which a knight should live. Importantly, play with wooden swords subtly teaches you the vital craft of swordsmanship.

How not to... enjoy the benefits of knighthood

King Henry II of France had put himself in a strong position. The peace treaty of Cateau-Cambresis had been concluded, ending 60 years of conflict with Spain over disputed neighbouring territories. His daughter Elisabeth had wed King Phillip II of Spain, cementing relations between the two countries. England, also signatories of the treaty, had given Calais back to France, and even Henry's sickly son Francis had been married off to Mary, Queen of Scots, confirming another alliance. The

prospects for France and its 40-year-old King looked healthy. In celebration, Henry, a fervent huntsman and joust competitor, hosted a tournament. He challenged Gabriel Montgomery, lord of Lorge and captain of the Scottish Guard, at the French court. When they clashed, Montgomery's lance shattered. Splinters flew everywhere, including through Henry's eye and into his brain. He swiftly absolved Montgomery of any blame, but soon deteriorated, dying ten days later.



03 Service for knowledge

Pages become squires at about 14. You'll have learned to handle a lance on wooden horses, but now you're developing those skills on live ones. Those horses need tending, though, and that's one of your tasks, along with cleaning armour and weapons. Smart squires learn plenty watching the knight they serve in tournament jousts - yet he'll have obligations too...

04 The apprenticeship gets real

...If the king summons your knight to battle, he will take his squires with him. Before, he'll likely have been educating you about castle defence and siege warfare - now you're finding out first hand. One of the harshest lessons of all, of life and death, cannot be escaped. Whether vaunted kings or fledgling squires, people die on battlefields.



05 Forged in battle

You live to tell the tale, and to fight another day. You honour your friend's memory by striving to be as good a warrior as him. In further campaigns, you don't hesitate to join dismounted knights as they fight hand to hand in brutal, bloody melees. Courage and bravery combined with your diligently acquired skills mark you out as special.

06 A tap on the shoulder

The usual age at which a squire can be dubbed a knight is 21. Your exceptional battlefield valour, however, may mean you receive the honour early. After a night of solitary prayer, you swear oaths to protect the king and to act chivalrously. A sword is placed on your shoulder, and you hear the treasured, ceremonial word: "Arise, Sir Knight!"

4 FAMOUS... ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

C. 1118-1312, MIDDLE EAST

This military religious order protected pilgrims journeying to the Holy Land, but was disbanded by Pope Clement V due to pressure from Phillip IV of France.



TEUTONIC KNIGHTS

C. 1190-PRESENT, GERMANY

Founded during the Crusades as a nursing, then military, unit, it later relocated to subdue the pagan Baltic region. It is a religious charitable organisation today.



THE ORDER OF THE GARTER

1348-PRESENT, ENGLAND

Set up by Edward III, it consists of the sovereign, the Prince of Wales and no more than 24 members.



THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE

1430-PRESENT, FRANCE

Founded in Burgundy by Phillip III, it later became associated with Austria and Spain.

5 surprising facts about...

HIMEJI CASTLE

THE ICONIC 'WHITE HERON CASTLE' HIMEJI, JAPAN, 1601-PRESENT

01 Last castle standing

Himeji is the largest surviving and best-preserved castle in Japan, with many others having fallen to fire, war or natural disasters. It was restored and reopened in 2015, but also throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, when repairs were made regularly by the feudal masters to keep it in good condition.

04 It's not just one building

Himeji Castle is a complex consisting of 83 buildings, with the complete site covering 107 hectares. These buildings include ramparts, gate buildings and the donjon complex, another name for the centre tower and buildings attached to it. There is also a 143-hectare 'buffer zone' surrounding the castle.

02 It took almost a decade to build

The construction of the building took an estimated 25 million man days across nine years from start to finish. The completed structure includes a middle and outer moat, and the central tower (tenshu), which has five storeys and is made of wood, plaster, stone and tiling.

05 Himeji has never fulfilled its purpose

The castle was built as a defensive structure, but never saw battle. Its hilltop location and moat were designed to keep invaders out, as were its portholes, for shooting arrows and dropping stones. It was bombed during World War II, but the only bomb to hit it failed to detonate.

03 Legend says there's a ghost in the well

A well that sits in front of Himeji Castle is said to contain the remains of a young servant girl, Okiku, who, in one version of the story, was tossed into it after revealing a plot to overthrow the castle's lord. Local legend has it that the tortured girl now haunts the corridors of the castle.

AT A GLANCE

A castle has stood on the site since 1346, but the building we see today was commissioned by Ikeda Terumasa, a Japanese general, in the early 17th century. It was the centre of its feudal domain for three centuries, until 1868 with the fall of the shogun.





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Original cast photo by Steve Tanner



When World War II's totalitarian titans clashed, Eastern Europe turned red with blood and the Soviet Union was brought to the brink of collapse

Written by Jack Griffiths and Michael Haskew

LER S U S ALIN

BARBAROSSA



A war of total annihilation was about to begin. The target of the Nazi wrath was the Soviet Union, the communist powerhouse that dominated from the Baltic Sea to the North Pacific. Since penning *Mein Kampf* in 1925, German dictator Adolf Hitler had made it his mission to supply the German people with the Lebensraum - living space - he believed they needed and end what he saw as the creeping evil of Bolshevism, the revolutionary creed that, as he saw it, threatened the fragile German republic of the 1920s. This wasn't just any military campaign - it was a clash between two mutually exclusive ideologies that viewed each other with absolute contempt, two totalitarian dictatorships that ruled through fear and demanded absolute, unthinking obedience, and two all-powerful monsters that commanded their war effort from the highest level. In the spring of 1941, Austrian failed artist Adolf Hitler would break his pact with Georgian bank robber Josef Stalin - and millions would pay for their arrogance.





Walther von Brauchitsch and Adolf Hitler oversee the victory parade of the Wehrmacht in Poland 1939

FROM THE BALTIC TO THE BLACK SEA

Contrary to popular myth, there was no single 'Blitzkrieg' doctrine in the German army - their successes of 1939 and 1940 were built on a mobile warfare doctrine developed after World War I, coupled with a strong professional officer corps and air superiority. By December 1940, though, Hitler had been seduced by his own propaganda. Convinced the USSR would crumble in the face of a knock-out blow, Führer Directive 21 outlined the plan of what was to become Operation Barbarossa - named for the Holy Roman Emperor who led the Third Crusade.

134 full-strength divisions were committed to the new front under Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch, spread over the continent from Memel in the north to Odessa in the south. The 1939 German-Soviet non-aggression pact that had carved up Eastern Europe for the two despots was torn up, and Hitler confidently predicted the invasion would take a mere ten weeks.

The tactical pre-emptive strike would be fought by the Ostheer on three fronts by Army Groups

North, South and Centre, and aimed to expel all Soviet forces behind the Arkhangelsk-Astrakhan (A-A) Line and take Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev. Army Group Centre, led by WWI veteran Field Marshal Fedor von Bock, would take the same route as Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Russia 129 years prior. To ensure the Germans didn't suffer the same fate, General Friedrich Paulus was entrusted with undertaking a strategic survey of the attack zone. Paulus advised encirclement tactics to prevent the Red Army retreating and overstretching German supply lines, locking them into a costly guerrilla war in the Soviet interior.

Barbarossa was delayed by over a month as German forces experienced stiffer opposition than expected in the Balkans. The Yugoslavs in

particular put up fierce resistance and Hitler was forced to take over the Italian invasion of Greece. The delay could have given the Kremlin time to rally defences, but despite warnings, Stalin was convinced Hitler would not invade until Britain was firmly under German occupation. The Soviet leader was tipped off as early as December 1940, and was reminded of the threat in a message sent by Winston Churchill in April 1941. Stalin was given one final chance to mobilise his troops on 21 June 1941, the eve of Barbarossa. Wehrmacht Sergeant-Major Alfred Lishof, who had deserted his unit and been taken in by Soviet soldiers, claimed a German attack was imminent. Stalin rebuffed his warnings. He received a rude awakening the next day: the war for the east had begun.

"WE ONLY HAVE TO KICK IN THE DOOR AND THE WHOLE ROTTEN STRUCTURE WILL COME CRASHING DOWN"

HITLER'S PREDICTION FOR JUNE 1941

THE BLOODY PURSUIT OF LEBENSRAUM

How the Ostheer blazed a trail through the plains and cities of eastern Europe

4. Finnish assistance

10 July

While the Romanians plug away in the south, the Finnish army moves towards the Karelian Isthmus. In total, 300,000 Finnish soldiers join in the fight against the USSR.

1. The distant rumble of panzers

22 June

Barbarossa gets under way as German armoured divisions race east to deliver what they hope will be a knock-out blow to the unprepared Soviet forces.

5. Smolensk

16 July

Another important city on the road to Moscow is taken by the Germans. Resistance lasts in the city until 5 August. By 1 September, the frontline has extended as far as Leningrad in the north and the Crimea in the south.

7. Operation Typhoon

2 October

An all-out assault on Moscow begins after much deliberation in the Nazi hierarchy. The Germans manage to fight their way to the capital's suburbs but ultimately fail to take the city as winter sets in.

9. Winter takes hold

5 December

Horrendous weather conditions and fresh Soviet recruits take their toll on the exhausted Wehrmacht, which has no alternative but to turn back. Operation Barbarossa has failed in its objectives, however, eastern Europe has fallen under the shadow of the Greater German Reich.

3. More cities fall

3 July

The onslaught continues as Volkovysk and then Minsk are both taken as German forces encircle the Red Army and take 324,000 prisoners.

6. The taking of Kiev

16 September

The capital of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic is the next settlement to fall as Soviet troops are trapped in a pocket east of the city. A month later, the Wehrmacht have advanced even further to Bryansk and Belgorod.

8. Siege of Sevastopol

16 November

Crimea falls into the hands of the Germans after a lengthy siege that eventually results in an Axis victory. The area will be used as a launch pad for the drive to the oil fields of the Caucasus in Operation Blue.

2. Romanian allies

22 June

It isn't just the Wehrmacht ploughing east as two allied Romanian armies press into Ukraine heading for the city of Odessa.

KEY

- GERMAN ADVANCE
- SOVIET COUNTERATTACK
- SURROUNDED SOVIET FORCES
- GERMAN TROOPS
- SOVIET TROOPS

HITLER'S ARMoured STORM

Steel helmet

The German Army's distinctive steel helmet, or Stahlhelm, was adopted during World War I and later modified numerous times. Its coal scuttle appearance came to symbolise Nazi brutality in Europe.

Mauser rifle

This German soldier carries the iconic bolt-action Mauser Karabiner 98 kurz, or K98k, firing a 7.92mm cartridge. The K98k was the standard-issue Wehrmacht infantry rifle during World War II.

Winter gear

This German soldier is fortunate to have an overcoat, heavy boots and gloves to protect against the Russian winter. Many German soldiers on the Eastern Front had only their summer uniforms.

Mess kit

The German soldier carried his mess kit and bread bag attached to Y-straps or D-ring loops on leather belts. As Barbarossa wore on, hot food was served less frequently in the field.

The ill-prepared Red Army and the fury of the oncoming assault was a lethal cocktail for the USSR. Stalin's purges of generals had put his forces at a severe disadvantage and the troops were growing weary of constant supervision by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD). The Soviets may have had up to three times the number of tanks and aircraft as the Third Reich but they were widely dispersed across the vast country, lacked strong command and suffered from obsolete technology. The first major engagement of the Baltic front was the Battle of Raseiniai beginning on 23 June. The attack included a huge bombardment from both ground artillery and the Luftwaffe, which crippled Soviet airfields, seeing the Soviet Air Forces lose 25 per cent of its strength. Mechanised divisions covered up to 80 kilometres a day as the front went further eastwards, while the infantry was behind them, yomping 30 kilometres a day. Encircling the shell-shocked Soviets was paying off as pincer movements accounted for hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war. In early July, Bialystok and Minsk also fell as the Red Army retreated from Belarus to the banks of the Dnieper River. The Wehrmacht exerted technical and tactical dominance, with 750 German armoured vehicles crushing 3,500 Soviet armoured vehicles at the Battle of Brody between 23-30 June.

"WHAT INDIA WAS FOR ENGLAND THE TERRITORIES OF RUSSIA WILL BE FOR US... THE GERMAN COLONISTS OUGHT TO LIVE ON HANDSOME, SPACIOUS FARMS"

HITLER ON HIS PLANS FOR THE LEBENSRAUM



WEHRMACHT SOLDIER

The battle-hardened soldiers of the German Wehrmacht knew only victory until they invaded Soviet Russia

German troops enter Russia during the early stages of the invasion, June 1941



Hitler vs Stalin: Operation Barbarossa



Axis infantry use a Flammenwerfer 41 to sweep a building clear of resistance

“BURNING VILLAGES, STARING BODIES OF FALLEN RUSSIAN SOLDIERS, SWOLLEN CARCASSES OF DEAD HORSES, RUSTING, BLACKENED AND BURNT OUT TANKS WERE THE SIGNS OF THE MARCH”

A GERMAN INFANTRYMAN DESCRIBES THE EARLY DAYS OF BARBAROSSA

July saw torrential rain drench the battlefields of eastern Europe. It was so severe that the free-roaming Ostheer had been stopped in its tracks and columns of troops tailed back tens of kilometres waiting for the sun to emerge from the clouds. This gave the beleaguered Red Army a chance to rediscover its composure. The reaction was a counterattack but the Wehrmacht stood firm, beating the Soviets back and advancing ever further towards Smolensk, which fell after a month of heavy fighting. The Germans were suffering substantial losses now but the Wehrmacht juggernaut just kept on coming. Stalin ordered a strict scorched-earth policy. All across the Eastern Front bridges were destroyed, railway lines were sabotaged and roads were demolished. Strong resistance was now a must as the Ostheer drew ever nearer to the cradle of Soviet power. Stalin didn't tolerate failure and General Dmitry Pavlov was duly executed for his failure to prevent the German advance. Now his commanders were much more hesitant to surrender or retreat. While Stalin was purging the Red Army from the top down, the Wehrmacht was busy pillaging the population of Minsk.

Winter uniform

Unlike his German adversary, the Red Army soldier was outfitted for winter warfare with a quilted coat and trousers, fur-lined gloves and thick boots that provided warmth in below-freezing temperatures.

DP-28 light machine gun

With its large drum magazine, the DP-28 light machine gun earned the nickname 'the record player'. Firing a 7.62mm round, it provided automatic weapons support at the squad level.



Winter headgear

Rather than wearing a heavy steel helmet, this Red Army soldier takes advantage of the warmth of a wool, fur-lined cap that offers protection for his ears against the bitter Russian winter.

Additional accoutrements

This Red Army soldier has placed his garrison cap inside his wide canvas belt, while additional equipment and ammunition for other weapons are carried in attached pouches.

RED ARMY SOLDIER

After suffering horrible losses, the resilient Red Army soldier proved more than a match for the Nazi invaders

THE HOLOCAUST IN THE EAST

As the front kept expanding, Hitler's vision for an ethnically 'pure' Lebensraum was beginning to be realised behind the lines. Following in the infantry's tracks was the Einsatzgruppen - paramilitary death squads under the command of the SS. They systematically murdered Jews, communist officials and intelligentsia, and Romani and Sinti Gypsies in mass shootings, public hangings and gas trucks, which used the exhaust emissions from motors to choke their victims. Concentration camps and ghettos were also established, and their inmates used as slave labour.

Some of the Wehrmacht command had misgivings but this didn't stop it, and many regular army units, police units, locally raised auxiliaries and fascist militia were complicit in the bloodletting. One of the largest of the mass murders was at Babi Yar on the outskirts of Kiev in September 1941. SS records report a total of 600,000 killed in 1941 alone and the terror outlasted Barbarossa with up to 2 million people being killed by the Einsatzgruppen between 1941 and 1944.

After the close of hostilities, 24 former Einsatzgruppen commanders were charged with crimes against humanity at the Einsatzgruppen Trial, from 1947-48. 14 received death sentences and two received life sentences. The others were given lesser sentences. The ultimate architects of the system, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, both met justice - the former committed suicide in his prison cell while the latter was assassinated in Prague by Allied agents.

"PEOPLE ARE CRYING AND TALKING ABOUT THE NAZIS' HATRED OF JEWS AND COMMUNISTS... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE INVADERS NO LONGER REGARD US AS HUMAN BEINGS AND BRAND US JUST LIKE CATTLE? ONE CAN NOT ACCEPT SUCH MEANNESS. BUT WHO DARES OPPOSE THEM?"

VILNA RESIDENT MACHA ROLNIKAS WRITING IN HER DIARY IN JUNE 1941

Main weapon

The T-34 medium tank was initially armed with a high-velocity 76.2mm cannon, later upgunned to an 85mm weapon.

Sloped armour

The sloped armour plating of the T-34 added to its protective qualities without increasing the thickness of the armour itself.

Secondary armament

For defence against enemy infantry, the T-34 mounted a pair of 7.62mm machine guns in the turret and hull.

Driver position

The driver steered the T-34 by pulling either of two tillers located on each side of his seat.

THE ADVANCE FALTERS

The first phase of Barbarossa was over and Hitler and his generals now had to make a judgement call. There were three possible routes that lay ahead: drive on to Moscow, venture north to conquer the birthplace of communism, Leningrad, or turn south and head for the USSR's breadbasket, Ukraine. Hitler, overruling his generals in the process, opted for the latter, reasoning that the oil fields of Baku and the Soviet industry hub at Kharkov were a priority. This would weaken the attacking thrust on Moscow, but the Führer, still completely convinced of his talent as a war leader, believed he knew best. The disagreements rumbled on for the majority of August, as valuable time to completely crush the Soviets was lost. This respite was just what the Red Army needed. By the middle of August, 200 fresh divisions had been brought west, and even if the Germans continued to outthink the Soviets, they would not outnumber them. Despite the oncoming numerical advantage,

the ensuing Battle of Kiev was the biggest defeat ever felt by the Red Army in history, and as the Germans took the Uman Pocket, things weren't getting better up north either. The symbolic city of Leningrad had been besieged from mid-September and 300 civilians were dying every day in the former Russian capital, where starvation had seen the population resort to eating cats, dogs and birds. There were even reports of cannibalism.



Cramped interior

The interior of the T-34 was not ergonomically ideal as its crew operated in cramped positions for extended periods.

Turret

The compact two-man turret of the early T-34 required the commander to aim the main gun, reducing combat efficiency.

Wide tracks

The T-34's wide tracks provided stability to the tank's chassis and improved cross-country performance, particularly in snow or muddy terrain.

Suspension system

American Walter Christie designed the suspension system of the T-34, which was common among Soviet tanks of World War II.

Engine

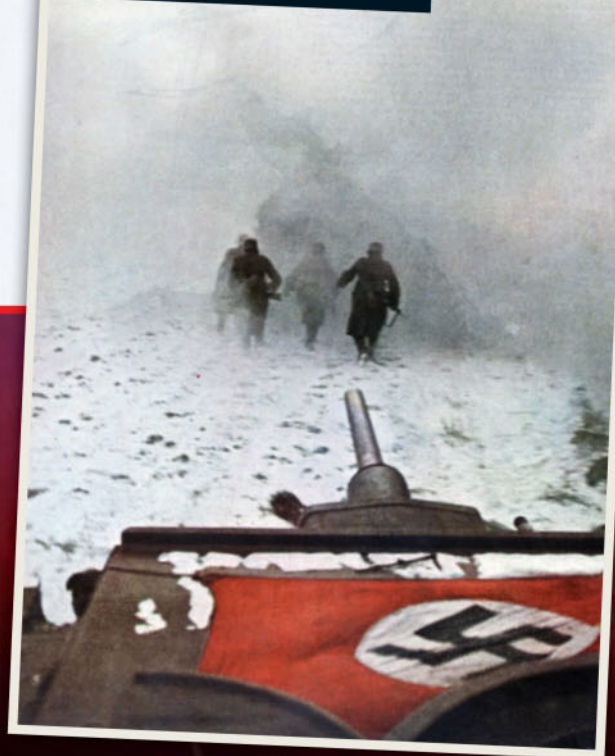
The T-34 was powered by a V-2-34 V-12 diesel engine generating 500 horsepower and a top speed of 53 kilometres per hour.



RED ARMY WORKHORSE

The Soviet T-34 is thought to be the most formidable tank of World War II

A German tank with a vehicle recognition drape during the Battle of Moscow



OPERATION TYPHOON

After the successes in both the north and south, it was time for the Ostheer to deliver the killing blow: Moscow. The assault got under way in October as Vyazma, a town 200 kilometres south of Moscow, was taken. The victories just kept coming as Kalinin and Bryansk also fell. Moscow was nearing.

In the city, the scene was one of panic. Two million people had fled the capital and the Soviet government had been relocated to Kuybyshev (now Samara) 800 kilometres to the east. One man who didn't quake in his boots was Georgy Zhukov. With Imperial Japan no longer posing a threat to the Soviet Far East - thanks in part to his critical victory at Khalkhin Gol in 1939 - he mobilised

900,000 recruits from the eastern military districts to combat the Germans in the west. The Ostheer were just 65 kilometres from the gates of Moscow and could see the light of anti-aircraft fire over the city, but they were unable to advance any further. The Soviet strategy was now to attack the energy-sapped and sleep-deprived Germans as much as possible, using the fresh troops, with adverse weather giving the Red Army plenty of time to regroup and consolidate its positions. Now a long way from Berlin, German intelligence began to falter. High Command severely underestimated the amount of troops the USSR could call on and

their prediction of 50 reserve Red Army divisions was woefully inadequate.

By mid-November, the Rasputitsa autumn rains had ceased and the muddy quagmire had hardened, allowing large-scale offensives to recommence. The Germans were now running through Moscow's suburbs and could see the sun glistening on the Kremlin. The heat of battle was fierce as the Red Army fought tooth and nail for the salvation of their capital. Something had to give, and it did, as the coldest winter for 140 years gripped the Soviet Union.

"FOR ALL MILITARY PURPOSES, SOVIET RUSSIA IS DONE WITH. THE BRITISH DREAM OF A TWO-FRONT WAR IS DEAD"

COMMANDER OF THE FIRST SS PANZER DIVISION, SEPP DIETRICH, 9 OCTOBER 1941

Hitler vs Stalin: Operation Barbarossa



A Wehrmacht soldier keeps an eye out for unexpected Russian attacks

GENERAL FROST

The Soviets were prepared for the sub-zero temperatures, equipped with padded winter clothing and specialist units - including ski troops and sleds for transporting guns and artillery. The Germans, meanwhile, had nothing of the sort. Hitler's confidence of a swift victory meant that few of the soldiers had winter clothing to keep the frost at bay and the results were devastating. Guns jammed and gloved fingers struggled to work them loose, rations froze with stews turning to hunks of ice, engines seized up for want of antifreeze, and intense blizzards grounded the Luftwaffe. The frostbite was so bad that 14,000 soldiers had their limbs amputated and the Ostheer's supply train, which was overly dependent on horses, was crippled. The Red Army counterattack on 5 December hit hard as 88 Soviet

divisions ploughed into German lines over an 800-kilometre front.

This crushed the resolve of the already weary Germans but Hitler was not one to admit defeat and ordered von Bock to hold his ground. The decision was pigheaded at best and represented the Führer's overconfidence as a general. The Red Army advance initiated a series of losses for the Wehrmacht, enraging Hitler. Von Rundstedt, von Brauchitsch and von Bock were all relieved of their duties as Hitler shuffled his pack. Günther von Kluge was promoted to field marshal while Hitler himself took over as supreme commander. The changes didn't have the desired effect and a tactical retreat was ordered as the panzer divisions withdrew 322 kilometres west to the starting place of Operation Typhoon. Barbarossa had failed.

"THE WIND STABS YOU IN THE FACE WITH NEEDLES AND BLASTS THROUGH YOUR PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR AND YOUR GLOVES. YOUR EYES ARE STREAMING SO MUCH YOU CAN HARDLY SEE A THING"

WEHRMACHT GENERAL GOTTHARD HEINRICI ON THE HARSH CONDITIONS

THE LAKE LADOGA LIFELINE

Hitler coveted Leningrad as it was the symbolic centre of communism - the heart of the October Revolution of 1917 - and its successful invasion would be an ideological victory. Rail and land connections to the rest of the USSR were severed on 30 August as Nazi command decided to besiege the city. The only chance for Leningrad lay in Lake Ladoga, which was already providing a natural barrier, dividing German and Finnish co-belligerents. The lake froze over in November 1941 allowing lorries to transport supplies into the city, providing relief. The incoming resources from the ice road weren't enough to completely sustain the city but the natural highway helped keep the city alive until it was liberated in January 1944 after more than 900 days of siege.



For its citizens' immense bravery and stamina, Leningrad was named a hero city by the Soviet government in 1945

✠ BARBAROSSA GENERALS ✠

The opposing German and Soviet commanders committed millions of men and vast resources to one of the largest clashes of arms the world had ever seen



ADOLF HITLER

As early as the 1920s, Adolf Hitler made public his vision for the German people to find Lebensraum, or living space, in the east. Believing that Soviet Russia could not withstand the onslaught of Nazi combined arms, the Führer launched Operation Barbarossa. It was to prove a decision that would eventually doom the Third Reich.



WALTHER VON BRAUCHITSCH

Commander in chief of the German Army during the early years of WWII, Field Marshal von Brauchitsch supported Hitler's proposed invasion of the Soviet Union. However, von Brauchitsch fell into disfavour with the Führer when German forces failed to capture Moscow.



FEDOR VON BOCK

Field Marshal Fedor von Bock commanded Army Group Centre during Barbarossa. He opposed Hitler's alterations to the original Wehrmacht plan to drive directly against Moscow rather than attempting great encirclements of Red Army troops and capturing Minsk and other cities prior to the advance on the capital.



JOSEF STALIN

After the nations signed a much-publicised non-aggression pact in 1939 and co-operated during the invasion of Poland, Premier Josef Stalin naively refused to believe intelligence reports suggesting that Hitler and the Nazi war machine were preparing to invade the Soviet Union on a front more than 1,600 kilometres long.



GEORGY ZHUKOV

Although his earliest counteroffensive operations against the invading German Army ended in failure, Marshal Georgy Zhukov remained a central figure in the Red Army effort to stem the Nazi tide and in the eventual victory during the Great Patriotic War, as the Soviets called World War II.



ALEKSANDR VASILEVSKY

A high-ranking member of the Red Army general staff, Marshal Vasilevsky was responsible for planning much of the defensive effort around Moscow in the autumn of 1941 as well as many aspects of the Soviet counteroffensive operations that led to eventual victory.

GERMANY'S ALLIES

The smaller nations thrown into the meat grinder between Hitler and Stalin



FINLAND

Finland had been embroiled in border disputes with the Soviet Union prior to Barbarossa. The two nations had been battling it out on the Karelian Isthmus since 1939 in the Winter War and Hitler saw the opportunity for an alliance. On the same day as Barbarossa, the Finnish Army, although not technically part of the Axis, began an assault on the Isthmus just north of Leningrad. Even after Barbarossa ended, the Continuation War lasted until 1944.



ROMANIA

Hitler was keen for an alliance with Romania as it granted him access to extra oil reserves and the second largest contribution of troops to Barbarossa. The troops joined up with Army Group South but found their ability in battle was often castigated by Wehrmacht generals. Regardless, they were instrumental in the push on Odessa and the Crimea, but when the USSR pushed west, the Romanian Army was in no position to resist.



ITALY

After the joint invasion of Greece and the Balkans, Mussolini was keen to assist his German ally. An expeditionary force of 62,000 troops was raised but, like the Germans, they were unprepared for the frozen climate. The Italian Eighth Army supported the Wehrmacht throughout the campaign but turned out to be no match for the Red Army. Tens of thousands of POWs were captured to suffer in Soviet prison camps.



HUNGARY

Linked to Germany through their alliance with the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, Hungary was given territory in Romania and Yugoslavia as a way of goading them into the war. Despite this, the Hungarians were hesitant to commit soldiers and contributed less than other Axis states. Their sudden capitulation in 1944 in the face of the Red Army advance saw Hitler install a puppet regime to try to stymie the Soviet fight back.



SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Slovak Republic was established in 1939 as a client state to Nazi Germany. As a puppet state, it was forced to submit to German direction. The Slovakian Expeditionary Army Group sent 45,000 men to aid the Wehrmacht but could not keep up as it lacked vehicles to match the fast-moving panzer formations. Their moral declined as the war went on so the majority of its divisions were turned into purely construction battalions.



Hitler vs Stalin: Operation Barbarossa



ПРИ ГОДА ВОЙНЫ

WHY HITLER LOST

Despite the Nazi war machine's initial victories as the armoured spearheads of Operation Barbarossa struck deep across the expanse of Russia, killing or capturing millions of Red Army soldiers, Adolf Hitler had failed to reckon with several salient points that condemned the Wehrmacht to defence, decline and defeat on the Eastern Front. Expecting a rapid advance to victory, Hitler underestimated the resolve of his communist enemy and the steely, ruthless determination of Josef Stalin once the Soviet Union was plunged into war.

As the Germans marched from victory to victory, overconfidence gripped the Führer and his senior commanders. However, by the autumn of 1941, the situation had begun to take on a different character. While Hitler meddled with the conduct of the offensive both strategically and tactically, Red Army counterattacks and then seemingly endless rain, mud and snow combined to slow the

triumphant Nazi tide. For the German soldier, an ill wind blew across Russia with the winter of 1941. Often with nothing more substantial than their summer uniforms to protect against the bitter cold, men were incapacitated or simply froze to death. Engines and weapons became inoperable. A mechanised army ground to a chilling halt. Panzer commanders peered through field glasses at the domes of Moscow fewer than 20 kilometres away.

When Hitler turned his tanks towards Stalingrad and the oil fields of the Caucasus the following summer, only death and destruction awaited his powerful Sixth Army and the once seemingly invincible Wehrmacht formations. Eventually an inexorable wave of Soviet retribution roared across eastern Europe and into the streets of Berlin. On the Eastern Front, Hitler's reach had exceeded his grasp, revealing the Führer's destiny to die, along with his dream of world domination, amid the rubble of his capital city.

"THEY ARE EVERYWHERE PUSHING THROUGH THE WIDE GAPS THAT HAVE OPENED UP IN OUR FRONT. THE RETREAT IN SNOW AND ICE IS ABSOLUTELY NAPOLEONIC IN ITS MANNER. THE LOSSES ARE THE SAME"

GENERAL GOTTHARD HEINRICI, WHO SERVED IN THE FOURTH ARMY UNDER VON KLUGE, 22 DECEMBER 1941

THE SHEER SCALE OF OPERATION BARBAROSSA

The Wehrmacht boasted a total of

134 + 73
DIVISIONS at full fighting strength DIVISIONS for deployment behind the front



3.5 MILLION
GERMAN TROOPS

50,000
SLOVAKIAN TROOPS

300,000 FINNS

1 MILLION GERMAN ALLIED TROOPS

250,000 ROMANIANS

THE GERMANS HAD



3,580 TANKS



2,700 AIRCRAFT



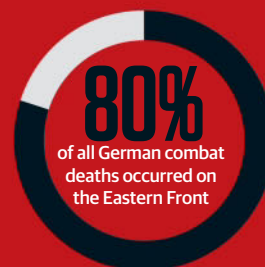
500,000 TRUCKS



7,184 GUNS

The capture of Kiev took

665,000 PRISONERS
884 TANKS
3,000 GUNS



The Devil's Chalice

D.K. WILSON

The Real Crime

In the steaming summer of 1549 two men languish in the Tower of London. William West is accused of attempted murder. Robert Allen is under investigation for dabbling in the Black Arts. Meanwhile, England is in the grip of rebellions against the boy king, Edward VI. The connection between these facts remains a mystery.

Our Story

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- Alison Weir, author of *Katherine of Aragon*, *The True Queen*



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THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

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Time Traveller's Handbook

HADRIAN'S WALL

Northern Britannia, 2nd century

When you first arrive at the edge of the Roman Empire, you'll struggle not to find yourself awed by Emperor Hadrian's Wall. Stretching from coast to coast across the narrow neck of Britannia, it is punctuated by forts and milecastles manned by 9,000 soldiers. Painted with whitewash, it glistens in the sun for miles around, emanating Roman power.

Emperor Hadrian himself may have intervened as a show of Roman strength after years of unrest in Britannia, landing on the island in the year 122 with 3,000 extra troops to reinforce the over-stretched military. To regain control of the province, he ordered the wall to be built to cut southern insurgents off from their allies in the north.

Don't mistake the wall for an impenetrable barrier, however. It has come to act more as a border crossing between Roman Britain and its so-called 'barbarian' neighbours, with northern tribes trading in the surrounding frontier towns.

WHERE TO STAY

If you enlist in the Roman auxiliary forces, you will be able to stay in one of the major forts like Housesteads, Segedunum and Vindolanda, which can be found located every 11.5 kilometres along the wall precisely. As well as a barracks and military headquarters, each one of these forts also has a bathhouse, a hospital and its own granary.

However, don't worry if military service is of no interest to you. There are plenty of places to stay in one of the towns that have sprung up around these forts.

Designed to part the soldiers from their hard-earned denarius, these settlements offer the best of local produce, goods imported from around the empire and a raucous nightlife.

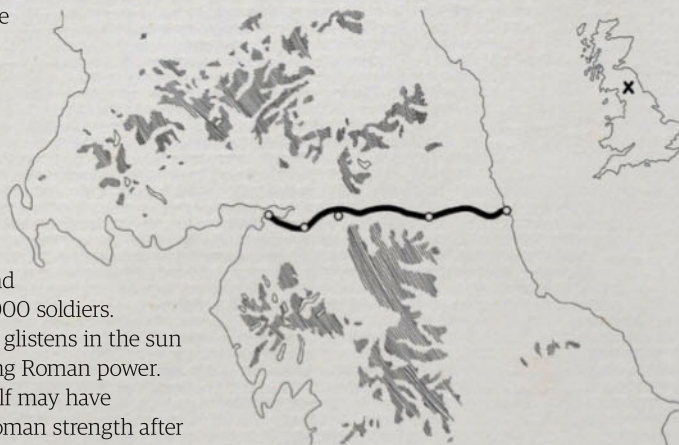


FIG.01

Did you know?
Hadrian's Wall was made from 4 million tonnes of stone and took 15 years to construct

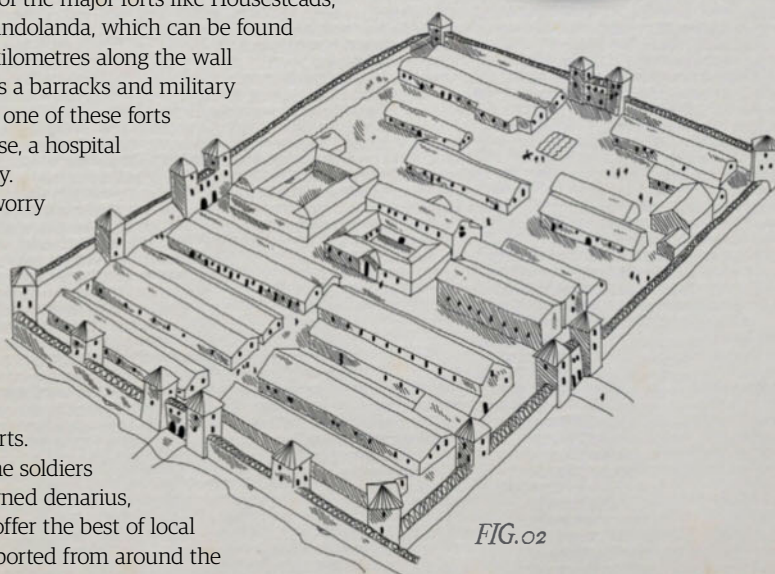


FIG.02

Dos & don'ts

- ☒ **Use the checkpoints.** 'Barbarians' from the north can still enter the empire if they use designated gates, as long as they travel unarmed and accept a military escort.
- ☒ **Pay respects to the gods.** Make sure you worship at the altar to Jupiter at the Maryport fort, soldiers' favourite Mithras at Carrawburgh and native deity Antenociticus at Benwell.
- ☒ **Try the street food.** With supply lines coming in by sea, river and road, you can eat well on the wall, with even luxuries like peppers and oysters available in the settlements.
- ☒ **Enjoy the baths.** Even on this remote frontier, a Roman can enjoy a public bath. In fact, Chesters fort changing room alone is big enough for athletic games.
- ☐ **Go too far north.** Immediately north of the wall live many client chieftains loyal to Rome, but beyond this buffer zone live the Picts, who will ruthlessly kill invading foreigners.
- ☐ **Get too close.** Civilians aren't allowed too near to the wall. Even in the south, the settlements are only allowed to be built beyond a point marked by the Vallum ditch.
- ☐ **Drink too much.** Though the Romans are usually partial to a glass of red wine, auxiliaries have been known to enjoy the Celtic beer in the settlements' many inns.
- ☐ **Visit in winter time.** Many of the auxiliaries that are serving on the wall come from Syria and North Africa, and complain about the region's harsh climate, writing home asking to be sent thicker socks.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

Roman Auxiliaries

If you want to get ahead in the military zone that is Hadrian's Wall, your best bet is to get to know the Roman soldiers who run everything. Though built by legionaries, the wall is run by the 'Auxilia'. Recruited from the provinces, these men earned Roman citizenship through 25 years of military service. If you want to curry favour, try giving them warm clothes as a gift. This might sound odd, but many auxiliaries come from the other side of the empire, from places such as Spain, Romania, Algeria and Iraq, and write home complaining about the cold climate.

Extra tip:

If you settle in one of the towns, your neighbour might still be a soldier - or at least an ex-soldier. Many auxiliaries retire to the towns at the end of their military service.



FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

Pict raiding parties

Watch out for Pict raiding parties that attack weak points in the wall at night to rustle livestock and steal from settlers. The Picts are capable warriors, having resisted Roman occupation of the north for years using guerrilla tactics. However, they are not the savages Romans claim. In fact, they aren't even called Picts: this is a catch-all name Romans use for several tribes, coming from the Latin meaning 'painted people' referring to their tattooed faces and bodies. Some tribes are friendlier than others, even being allowed to trade in the southern settlements - albeit with a military escort.

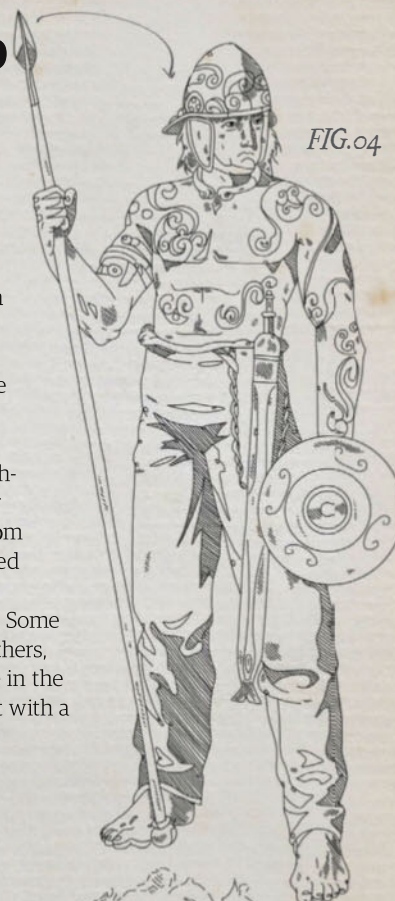


FIG.04

Helpful Skills

Make yourself useful on the wall with these essentials skills



FIG.05

Archery

Ask a Hamian tribesman to teach you how to defend the wall. A 500-strong regiment of Syrian archers is stationed on the wall at all times because of their skill with a bow.

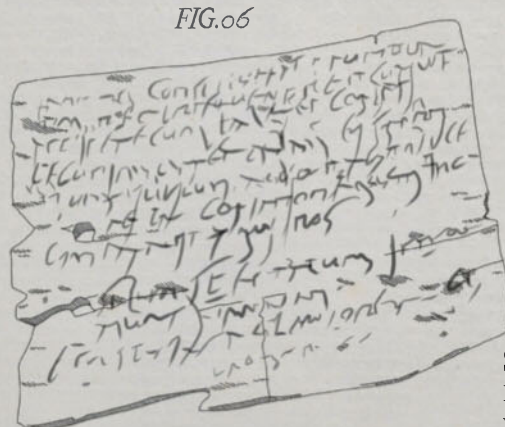


FIG.06

Note-taking

As part of their duties when controlling the border, soldiers would have to take reports. Evidence at Vindolanda shows that they often used thin sheets of wood for notes rather than wax tablets.

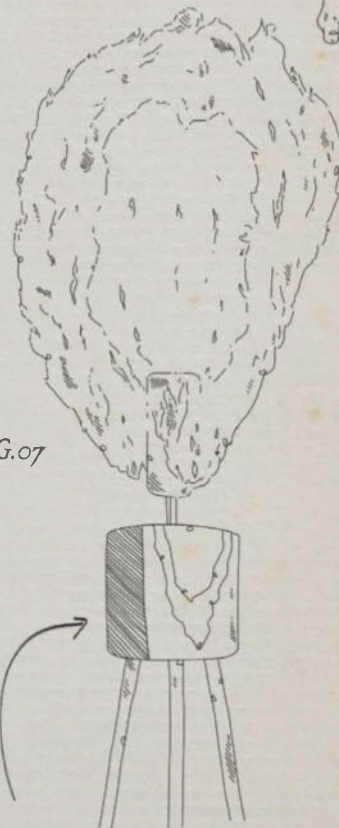


FIG.07

Signalling

Every fort is in line of sight of another, so you can quickly deliver a message along the wall using flags to communicate by semaphore. By night, you can also raise the alarm using flaming beacons.





THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

In a city pushed to breaking point, the smouldering coals from a bakehouse devastated the heart of England

Written by Catherine Curzon

Deep in the early hours of Sunday 2 September 1666, the plague-stricken and drought-ridden City of London was changed forever. In an unassuming and unremarkable bakehouse on Pudding Lane, as the baker and his family slumbered, a fire started that would blaze for days.

Within minutes, the flames had built into a nightmarish inferno and the stage was set for one of the most important events in the life of Restoration England. The Medieval lanes and alleyways that made a labyrinth of the City of London filled with fire, timber and thatch - feeding the flames that lit up the sky for three long, devastating nights. The Great Fire of London wreaked havoc, seemingly unstoppable, until it was finally brought under control on Wednesday 5 September.

When the flames died to embers and the smoke cleared, the City of London was left in ruins. Although official casualties were surprisingly few, there was no such mercy for the buildings squeezed into the tightly packed

streets. Crowded wooden tenements were reduced to ash and tens of thousands were made homeless and left with nothing to their name.

In the aftermath of the fire, scapegoats were sought and found, and an innocent man went to the gallows. For those who followed a different faith or came from overseas, this was a time of suspicion and distrust. So dark did things become that the king himself dispatched troops not only to fight the fire, but to save those who had, for one reason or another, attracted the attention of the mobs who crowded the streets, calling for justice.

As days turned into weeks and weeks into months, the process of rebuilding London became the primary focus of Crown and parliament. From the rudest tenement to the great Cathedral of Saint Paul's, the buildings that had been swallowed by fire were painstakingly replaced with new structures. It was a time of change, with famed names like Sir Christopher Wren reshaping and building the foundations of the city that we know today.

LONDON IN THE 1660S

Crowded and disease-ridden, London was bursting at the seams. It was a city waiting to explode

At the dawn of 1666, the great metropolis of London was the largest city in Great Britain. More than 500,000 people were packed cheek by jowl into its sprawling buildings, the city expanding far beyond its original confines until the slums spilled out of the city walls. London had been a centre of commerce, trade and civilisation for centuries and it was growing at an unprecedented rate. People from all over the world came to live in the city, creating a cosmopolitan, and sometimes confrontational, melting pot.

Home to about 80,000 people, the vast majority lost not only their accommodation to the inferno, but virtually everything they owned. Packed tightly into the unyielding city walls and with the mighty River Thames forming a natural boundary to the south, the Medieval founders of the City of London had not envisioned such a vast number of inhabitants when they laid out the city.

London was a maze of twisting, narrow alleyways that rarely saw the sun, its residents deprived of fresh air or basic sanitation. As the centuries passed, it had grown and developed, unplanned and virtually unregulated despite efforts to increase restrictions on what could be

built and where. Instead, buildings were seemingly dropped down anywhere, no sooner finished than they were already filling with residents desperate for a roof over their heads.

This forest of tottering wooden tenements with dry thatched roofs provided fertile kindling for the hungry fire. Although combustible materials were supposedly prohibited, stone was expensive, while wood and thatch was cheap, so builders took a risk, regardless of regulation. As the overcrowding grew worse, those who could afford to began to move out of the centre of the city. Estates were set out, the large stone houses of the wealthy surrounded by open ground, but for those who could not afford to escape, the future was bleak.

Suburbs and slums sprang up and the vast majority of the population settled in these ill-maintained buildings. With so many people living in squalid conditions, the conditions were rife for catastrophe and the plague took a devastating hold of the City of London in 1665. The rich had no desire to be in the centre of this crowded, stinking swarm, and even though they maintained their spacious, fine city residences built of strong stone, they often left the seething streets of the capital behind. For those with money, there was another world far beyond the slums.

Here, in the fresh rural air, the wealthy settled in their country retreats when the working week was done, while King Charles II made his court in Westminster. In fact, his palace came perilously close to being devoured by the flames that consumed so much of London. In fact, the king's initial efforts to help extinguish the flames were rebuffed, while personal and political prejudices contributed to the spread of the inferno and the scale of the damage that was wrought.

"This forest of tottering wooden tenements with dry thatched roofs provided fertile kindling for the hungry fire"

A pre-Great Fire view of London, with the old London Bridge spanning the Thames



Religion

The 1605 Gunpowder Plot shocked the nation, deepening the distrust between Protestants and Catholics in England. Although decades had passed since then, religious intolerance had not grown any less, and if anything was guaranteed to raise passions it was religion. Catholics were viewed with suspicion at best and hostility at worst and fears of religious terrorism were never far from the public consciousness. When the fire took hold, rumours of a Catholic plot spread quickly and soon those who had lost their homes were looking for revenge. So hostile were the displaced Londoners that foreigners and Catholics were forced to take shelter. Although some were saved by soldiers, others had to hide from those same troops, mindful that the authorities would be looking for scapegoats of their own.

Politics

In the 1660s, England was still reeling from the devastating Civil War that had shattered the country, and in the City of London, passions still ran high. During the conflict, the powerful and rich city had turned against the Crown and championed the cause of republicanism. The battles might have been over, but both Londoners and Charles II remembered those dark times. The powerful magistrates of the city still viewed the king with suspicion, remembering the absolutism of his father and the cost of the conflict. They were determined his son would not follow the same path and their suspicions were so deep that, when Charles offered to dispatch royal troops to fight the fire, his offer was rejected. Yet the lord mayor, Sir Thomas Bloodworth, proved fatally indecisive, and as the fire raged unchecked, the king had no choice but to take control.

Pepys

On 1 January 1660, a naval administrator named Samuel Pepys penned the first words in his diary. Within its pages he recorded not just everyday life but firsthand accounts of some of the most momentous events in 17th-century history, including intrigue, fire and plague. His was a story of success, of advancement through the ranks and into high office, yet through it all, Pepys maintained his eye for drama and a witty turn of phrase for every occasion. His iconic diary offers a rare opportunity to see life through the eyes of the 17th-century middle classes and is arguably the most important primary social source of the Restoration. Charting the ups and downs of both England's life and his own, Pepys kept his diary for almost a decade until failing eyesight caused him to abandon it on 31 May 1669.

Plague

In the packed, poorly sanitised City of London, disease was rife but none was more feared than the plague. With ships arriving daily from all over the world, it was just a matter of time before disaster struck, and it came courtesy of a vessel carrying cloth from the plague-wracked Netherlands. Public fears of the illness were proven to be well-founded when the Great Plague epidemic hit London in 1665, taking a catastrophic hold that lasted well into 1666. The wealthy fled the crowded metropolis for the fresh country air and the royal court abandoned their London palaces for Salisbury. For the thousands left behind, however, the epidemic was devastating. Cramped together with flea-ridden rats in sunless tenement rooms, more than 100,000 people, or a quarter of the city, fell victim to the plague.

LONDON'S BURNING

The Great Fire was a landmark event in British history, but what sparked the inferno and how did a king try to extinguish it?

London in the autumn of 1666 was dry, dirty and dusty, no rain having fallen in ten long months. In the plague-ridden city, the wooden tenements were just waiting to go up in flames. When night fell on Saturday 1 September 1666, baker Thomas Farriner closed his Pudding Lane bakery and went to bed. As he slept, the bakehouse coals he had thought safely extinguished caught light, and before long the ground floor of the Farriner bakery was ablaze.

With flames blocking the exits, Farriner, his family and their servant fled across the rooftops. Behind them they left a maid who was too afraid of heights to follow. That anonymous, terrified girl was the first casualty of the Great Fire of London.

Strong winds blew embers and flames out into the streets, igniting the sun-bleached buildings and hay bales. As the watch rallied to the cries of "Fire!" they decided to create a firebreak by demolishing neighbouring buildings. Residents refused to give consent and with stalemate reached, the lord mayor, Sir Thomas Bloodworth, was summoned to the scene.

When Bloodworth arrived, he refused to exercise his right to demand the demolition of

the buildings. Without the permission of the king, the City of London would have to bear the cost of rebuilding, and he wasn't about to take on that expense. Perhaps Bloodworth believed this was just one more fire among the many small blazes that often burned in the city, but such beliefs would be proven catastrophically wrong.

Its infernal progress seemingly unstoppable, once the fire hit the dockside and the highly combustible cargoes stored there, all chances of extinguishing it quickly were lost.

As the night sky turned red, diarist Samuel Pepys left his home and travelled by river to see the extent of the fire. He watched as the city went up in flames, churches and slums alike consumed by the inferno. Pepys recorded the progress and aftermath of the fire in his diaries, lending a

unique first-hand account of that infamous time. Through his eyes we see Bloodworth falter, the royal family flourish and the people panic.

Fleeing before the raging conflagration, Londoners tried to save what they could. They

hurled their belongings into boats and handcarts or even into the river. Soon the hot, narrow streets were an impassable tide of the dispossessed as thousands of people fled for their lives. Firefighters couldn't break through the panicked mass and the king, far from safe in his palace, took action.

Charles II gave the order to tear down every building

in the path of the fire, hoping to stop it with firebreaks. Still the blaze spread and by Monday, the north bank of the Thames was alight, London Bridge was aflame and Southwark was threatened by winds lifting embers over the river. The spread of the fire into south London was mercifully

"Strong winds blew embers and flames out into the streets, igniting the sun-bleached buildings and hay bales"

The Great Fire as seen from a boat in vicinity of Tower Wharf

The fire in Pepys's own words



2 September The spreading flames

By and by Jane comes and tells me that she hears that above 300 houses have been burned down to-night by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down all Fish-street, by London Bridge. ...it begun this morning in the King's baker's house in Pudding-lane.

3 September Panic in the streets

About four o'clock in the morning, my Lady Batten sent me a cart to carry away all my money, and plate, and best things, to Sir W. Rider's at Bednall-green. Which I did riding myself in my night-gowne in the cart; and, Lord! to see how the streets and the highways are crowded with people running and riding for all.

4 September Saving the cheese

Sir W. Batten not knowing how to remove his wine, did dig a pit in the garden, and laid it in there; and I took the opportunity of laying all the papers of my office [...] And in the evening Sir W. Pen and I did dig another, and put our wine in it; and I my Parmazan cheese.

5 September Devastation

Lord! what sad sight it was by moone-light to see, the whole City almost on fire, ...the saddest sight of desolation that I ever saw; every where great fires, oyle-cellars, and brimstone, and other things burning.

6 September Conspiracy

[On discovering a new fire] There is some kind of plot in this (on which many by this time have been taken, and, it hath been dangerous for any stranger to walk in the streets), but I went with the men, and we did put it out in a little time; so that that was well again.

stopped by a firebreak on the bridge, yet in the city there was no such luck. A firestorm engulfed the Royal Exchange, the middle-class homes of city professionals and all that stood in its way.

As civil unrest threatened, the king put his brother, the Duke of York, in charge of dealing with the fire. York took charge of the controlled demolitions, and his troops were dispatched to quell unrest in the streets. Stories tell that Charles II himself came into the city and pulled down buildings, throwing water onto the flames as everyone that could help did their bit.

By the time Saint Paul's Cathedral fell, pouring molten lead into the streets, it must have seemed as though the world was ending. Should the firestorm reach the Tower of London, the gunpowder stored there would go up like a bomb, and houses between it and the flames were demolished with explosives, creating a firebreak.

As the wind fell on Tuesday night, the firebreaks had finally started to do their job. The raging flames now died down, leaving thousands homeless, terrified and utterly lost in a London that had become unrecognisable.

Firefighting in the 17th century

In a city built mostly of wood, especially one that had endured a total drought since the previous November, small fires were commonplace. Quite apart from domestic candles, fireplaces and ovens, the City of London itself was full of fire hazards. Despite restrictions on where businesses could be located, smithies, foundries, and bakeries, among others, provided plenty of combustible material in the heart of the metropolis. When fires broke out, members of the watch would ring church bells and public-spirited citizens would rally to the call, sometimes with the aid of the local militias. Firefighting equipment was held in parish churches and those facing the flames used not only water, but the buildings themselves. Structures were demolished to provide firebreaks that would block the flames and prevent them from spreading. In fact, it was firebreaks, triggered by gunpowder demolitions, that finally put paid to the spread of the Great Fire of London.



Early Fire Engine named "Ye Deluge"

Used at the Great Fire of London, 1666, and "attended the first fire at Bournemouth.—DR. FALLS, 1867"

THE AFTERMATH

As the flames died down, the city counted the cost of the tragedy, not to mention the casualties

On 5 September 1666, as the remains of the City of London smouldered, it finally seemed as though the worst was over. Though the immediate danger had passed, cleaning up in the aftermath of the inferno would take years.

The devastated city was shrouded in smoke, small fires still burning here and there among the ruins, bright and hot amid the ash. Enormous numbers of casualties were expected, yet when the toll of the dead was counted, it was, unbelievably, just six, certainly less than ten. Of course, this accounts only for those whose remains were found. The fire burned so hot and through such tightly packed areas that it's possible many others, particularly the infirm, old and very young, were completely cremated and lost among

the ashes of their homes. We can never know the true human cost of the fire, though if it was truly just six,

it's nothing short of miraculous. For the survivors, there were to be precious few miracles in the days to come - tens of thousands of people left with nothing as a harsh winter fell over the City of London. In the months that followed the Great Fire, those who lost everything to the flames found that surviving the inferno had only been the beginning of their woes. Now they began to fall victim to rampant disease, or the bitter cold and starvation, not to mention the mobs seeking foreigners and seditious traitors to lynch.

Baker Thomas Farriner, in whose bakehouse the fire had started, was quick to point the finger elsewhere. He claimed that he wasn't to blame, and wasn't about to be hung out to dry. Instead, Farriner was determined that someone else

should bear the responsibility for the catastrophe, and there was no shortage of candidates. The search for someone to blame began in earnest before the fire was extinguished, and that search would lead an innocent man to the Tyburn tree.

Perhaps the most tragic story to come out of the Great Fire of London is that of Robert Hubert, a simple-minded young man with a habit of confessing to starting fires that had nothing to do with him. Hubert died on the famous Tyburn Gallows after he confessed to having firebombed the bakery. He claimed that French Catholics in the employ of the Pope himself had paid him to commit the crime but now his conscience had forced him to confess. Hubert was entirely innocent, of course, and after his death it was discovered that he had not even been in the

"Those who lost everything to the flames found that surviving the inferno had only been the beginning of their woes"

country on the night of the fire, but had been at sea. Yet anti-Catholicism was rife and rumours spread even quicker than the fire that conjured up papist conspiracies and suspicion.

King Charles II invited proposals for rebuilding the shattered city and he received them in abundance, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. At the same time, compensation and property disputes came in at such a rate that a special Fire Court was established to ensure a speedy resolution. Some of the destroyed billings seemed to have multiple owners who wanted to claim compensation or, conversely for those structures that had been built illegally, no owners at all. The Fire Court was charged with unpicking the tangled strands of claim and counterclaim



and ensuring that each case was wrapped up as quickly as possible.

The responsibility for rebuilding the City of London fell to the six commissioners for rebuilding, one of whom was Sir Christopher Wren. Although many proposals for a new layout were put forward, in the end those public buildings that had been razed were rebuilt on their

original sites, and though no radical restructuring took place, the look of the city was completely transformed. Gone were the tottering tenements that blocked out the sun,

with the narrow alleyways replaced by wider, safer streets and access to the Thames improved. Where once timber slums had crowded along the wharves, now the waterways were clear, the highly combustible goods stored there kept safely away from residences. Under strict new laws, all buildings had to be made of stone or brick, the better to resist fire. The churches that had burned and Saint Paul's Cathedral were rebuilt according to Wren's designs and Charles II ordered a memorial monument to be constructed to commemorate the fire, also designed by Wren.

For those who moved into new buildings, conditions were greatly improved, yet the wait for accommodation was long, and slums were far from a thing of the past for the people of London.

The fire in numbers

The fire burned at

1700°C

2/3RDS

of London Bridge
was burned, saving
Southwark and the city
south of the river

1

cathedral was razed to the ground

The fire burned for

3 NIGHTS
6 DEATHS

were recorded



The Great Plague is thought to have largely subsided in London when the fire struck



Did the Great Fire really wipe out the plague?



Adrian Tinniswood is senior research fellow in History at the University of Buckingham, and author of *By Permission Of Heaven: The Story Of The Great Fire Of London*.

The old story that the fire put an end to the plague is hard to sustain. Mortality rates were already falling by the beginning of 1666. The king felt it safe to return to Whitehall Palace on 1 February. Catherine of Braganza

followed him ten days later. True, the plague was far from over. Playhouses remained closed; the annual Bartholomew Fair at Smithfield was cancelled "for fear of a renewal of the contagion," and all through that August, reports of the epidemic poured in from around the country: "In Northamptonshire the sickness rages extremely, especially in Peterborough, Oundle, and Newport Pagnell, in which last, though a market town, only 700 or 800 people are left. At Cambridge it is so sore that the harvest can hardly be gathered in."

On the Kent coast, the situation in Cinque Ports was desperate. By the end of the month, three-quarters of those who had stayed in Deal and risked infection were reported to be dead; Dover and Sandwich were affected; and the plague had also moved inland to Canterbury as well as Maidstone.

Surely the very fact that the plague wasn't confined to London demonstrates that the Great Fire could not be responsible for eradicating it? Put at its simplest, the capital wasn't the only source of contagion.

The monetary cost of the fire was
£10 MILLION
 more than
£1 BILLION TODAY

13,200 houses were destroyed

Pepys saved



1
PARMESAN
CHEESE

Bluffer's Guide USA, 28 JUNE – 3 JULY 1969

The Stonewall Riots



Timeline

24 JUNE 1969



Raids on gay clubs are frequent and tolerated. The Stonewall Inn is raided the week before the riots, and others have allegedly been shut down.

28 JUNE 1969

Police enter the Stonewall Inn and make 13 arrests. The scene turns violent as revelers rebel against police and a mob gathers in protest.

29 JUNE 1969



The gay community gathers in Christopher Park and flyers are handed out to garner support for the cause. A memorial still stands there today.

29 JUNE 1969



The Stonewall Inn is boarded up, but more than 1,000 members of the LGBT community gather in Christopher Street to riot and demonstrate against city-sanctioned oppression.



What was it?

In the 1960s, homosexuality was illegal in every American state but Illinois. Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community were forced to meet in illicit, dingy bars and clubs, often run by the Mafia. Raids and closures of these clubs were frequent, and notorious gay bar the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village was one such establishment operating without a liquor licence.

Police officers entered the bar at around 1am. Raids on gay bars usually ended with the patrons passively dispersing, but on this evening, as the officers were arresting employees and drag queens guilty of nothing but Friday night revelry, something changed. The crowd got angry and the gay rights movement was born.

The mob outside the bar began to jostle at policemen and debris was hurled, forcing officers to take refuge inside the bar while numbers and tempers swelled in the street. The barricade was broken and the bar set alight before more officers arrived to disband the rioters and clear the streets. That night sparked outrage among the gay community, which was tired of police persecution.



What were the consequences?

The routine raid became a catalyst for equal rights lobbying for LGBT people across the USA. The night following the first riot at the Stonewall Inn saw more protests outside the boarded-up club, with numbers reaching more than 1,000. The five days that followed were peppered with demonstrations and altercations with the police, as men and women fought for equal rights.

A landslide of protesting followed, with the formation of the Gay Liberation Front and numerous gay rights publications. The anniversary of the riots in 1970 saw the USA's first gay pride parade. Over the coming years gay rights groups were set up in most cities, and in 1973, homosexuality was struck off the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental illnesses. This paved the way for legislation that decriminalised homosexuality and ended official discrimination towards LGBT people.



Who was involved?



Stormé DeLarverie

1920-2014

Rumoured to have thrown the fist punch at the Stonewall Inn, DeLarverie was a cross-dressing musician and prominent gay activist.



Dave Van Ronk

1936-2002

Folk musician Van Ronk heard the riot from another bar and joined the fray. He was arrested and detained inside Stonewall.



Sylvia Rivera

1951-2002

A gay liberation and transgender activist, Rivera was part of the riot that took place on Saturday 28 June 1969.

Did you know?

Up until the 1980s, decency laws dictated that a person must wear three items of gender-appropriate clothing

2 JULY 1969

Following a scathing and provocative report of the riots in newspaper *The Village Voice*, a mob once again descends on Christopher Street.

28 JUNE 1970

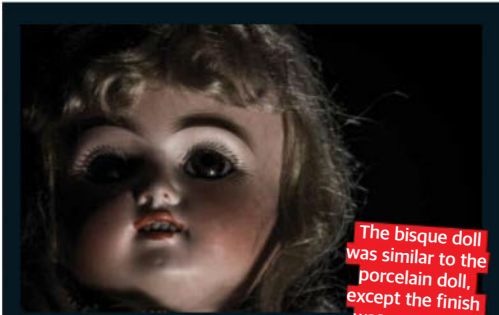


The first ever gay pride parade commemorates the Stonewall uprising, and becomes a tradition for LGBT communities across the world.

Through History

DOLLS

From the ritualistic to the realistically creepy, dolls have been a part of our lives for thousands of years



The bisque doll was similar to the porcelain doll, except the finish was matte and more realistic

BISQUE DOLLS 1860

For centuries the bisque doll has been a popular collector's item, and today vintage dolls can sell for thousands - the most expensive bisque doll ever sold was purchased for a whopping £242,500. Based on its predecessor, the china doll, the bisque doll also featured unglazed ceramic, which gives the doll its distinctive skin-like texture and aesthetic. Initially designed in the image of an adult, French Bébé dolls made in the likeness of children became the most popular type in the 1880s. Bisque dolls are still made today, but purely for the collector's market.

EGYPTIAN PADDLE DOLL 2000 BCE

Unlike traditional dolls, the Egyptian wooden paddle doll was more symbolic, instead of being used for pleasure. Found in the tombs of Ancient Egypt, the stylised design emphasised female sexuality, which has led many archeologists to believe that the dolls represent rebirth after death. Often decorated with patterns to show clothing, some dolls even featured long strands of 'hair', made up of beads and straw. One of the best-preserved paddle dolls is housed in the British Museum, with its hair and painting still perfectly intact.



Many considered Egyptian paddle dolls to be a symbol of rebirth



Most Roman dolls came with articulated arms and legs that mimicked human motion

ROMAN DOLLS 3RD-4TH CENTURIES

Much like Roman art and architecture, Roman dolls set a precedent for every future doll, with their human-like features and articulated limbs that could re-create human motion. Usually fashioned from ivory, clay or wood, some dolls were even made from bone. One of the most famous doll hauls was made in the Necropolis of Ontur, Spain, where four ivory dolls and one very unusual amber doll were discovered in the graves of Roman children. Even when a girl grew up, her doll would stay close, and upon marriage, the doll would be dedicated to a goddess.

The skill of creating a Russian doll lies in the painting of each nesting doll

RUSSIAN NESTING DOLLS 1890

First created in 1890 for Russian entrepreneur Savva Mamontov, the Matryoshka doll - now known as the Russian doll - was exhibited in 1900 at the Exposition Universelle in Paris, where it quickly became a popular exhibit. After the exposition, demand for the dolls soared, and manufacturing of the dolls spread across the nation. In 2003, the largest set of nesting dolls was created, with a whopping 51 dolls in all. During the Soviet era, novelty dolls became increasingly in demand, with dolls carved and painted to depict Soviet leaders or famous politicians.

Vasily Zvyozdochkin

RUSSIAN 1876-1956
Credited with creating the first ever set of nesting dolls, Vasily Zvyozdochkin, a skilled woodcraftsman, hand carved the eight-piece set, which featured a mix of young boys and girls, and then finally a baby. The dolls were then painted by Sergey Malyutin, an acclaimed Russian artist.



DUTCH DOLLS 17TH CENTURY

With their simple, chiselled figures and delicately painted faces, the Dutch doll was a popular toy in Germany and the Netherlands from the 1600s onwards. Simple in their design, the dolls featured an ornate bust and painted feet and arms, but the rest of the figure remained untreated - after all, the dolls were made for dressing up. In fact, the doll was intended to encourage their owners to create clothing for the doll out of scraps of material. Also known as peg wooden dolls, they picked up their nickname from their unique joints, which can be moved independently.

Dutch dolls were bought undressed so that clothes could be made from scraps of material

Corn husk dolls were made from the dry leaves or the 'husk' of a corn cob



CORN HUSK DOLLS UNKNOWN

The origin of the corn husk doll is a little murky, but their creation is thought to be a Native American tradition. Made out of the leaves of corn, the dolls are simple in design, with static limbs and no faces. According to legend, a mother made some corn husk dolls for her children, but she was so bewitched by their beauty that she became vain and inconsiderate - so the dolls' faces were stripped. Today, corn husk dolls are thought to symbolise prosperous land in Pennsylvania, and dolls can be bought as tourist gifts.

Hasbro AMERICAN 1923

The second largest toy maker in the world was responsible for the creation of GI Joe (also known as Action Man). In their production of the now-iconic toy, Hasbro redefined the doll, but with a twist. Marketed as an "action figure" and representing the armed forces, the all-American hero was the first doll designed to appeal to young boys.

Traditional golliwog dolls usually wore checked trousers and a blue cardigan



GOLLIWOG 1873

Based on a rag doll character created by Florence Upton, the golliwog is now synonymous with late-19th and early-20th-century racism. However, during its heyday, the golliwog was considered a charming, friendly character that channelled the same sentiments as a minstrel. The golliwog ragdoll was much more significant culturally than it was in any other way - it inspired a 'blackface' movement that spread throughout all commercial sectors, from clothing and toys to food and even advertising. By the late-20th century, however, the golliwog was deemed offensive, and its popularity came to a grinding halt.

"Roman dolls set a precedent for every future doll"

OKIAGARI-KOBOSHI 14TH CENTURY

A simple design more in keeping with a paper weight than a doll, the Okiagari-koboshi - which roughly translates as 'getting-up little priest' - is made of mainly papier-mache and has no limbs. Instead, the round, weighted design means that the doll always rights itself when it's knocked over. As fun as that sounds, the doll is more of a charm than a toy, symbolising the power of persistence.



It was considered bad luck if your okiagari-koboshi would not right itself when it fell on its side

Ruth Handler

AMERICAN 1916-2002

Mother of the most famous doll of the modern age, Handler's invention had a personal start. Frustrated by her daughter's flimsy paper dolls, Handler sought to create a three-dimensional one and named it after her daughter, Barbie. Once the doll took off, a boyfriend doll was created, Ken - weirdly named after Handler's son.

In recent years, Barbie has embraced a more socially acceptable figure after she was condemned for promoting an unattainable image

BARBIE 1959

The iconic platinum blonde doll that found its way into millions of homes across the world has seen countless redesigns over its 60-year reign of the shelves, but her appeal has never wavered. Initially starting life as a coy, wasp-waisted doll, Barbie now comes in all shapes and sizes - literally. After controversies surrounding Barbie's unattainable and unrealistic figure, she's been redesigned many times. Barbie is no stranger to controversy: pregnant Midge (Barbie's oft-forgotten best friend) allegedly condoned teenage pregnancy, while the original babysitter Barbie clutched a book entitled 'How to Lose Weight: Don't Eat!'



Created by Donna Lee Originals, reborn dolls can come with additional chest plates for added realism



REBORN DOLLS 1990S

If you thought Bisque dolls were creepy, you probably won't be a huge fan of the reborn doll. These are made to look as realistic as possible and can cost upwards of thousands of pounds. The process of producing a reborn doll is arduous and time-consuming, but there are kits available that include all the parts in case you want to make your own. To create the realistic skin colour, a blue wash is applied, followed by up to 30 layers of additional paint. The function of the dolls is dubious: many are created to commemorate a lost child, and the impact - whether positive or negative - of the doll on the grieving process is undocumented.

ABSINTHE ROBETTE



DRINKING WITH THE DEVIL

CONJURING IMAGES OF BOHEMIAN ARTISTS,
PALE-FACED POETS AND THE LONG-LOST GLAMOUR
OF 19TH-CENTURY CAFÉ CULTURE, DISCOVER
HOW ABSINTHE FEVER INTOXICATED A NATION

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE CURZON

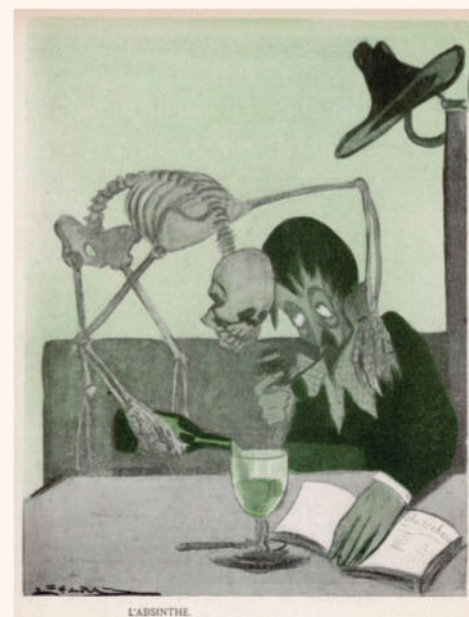
The clock strikes five on the left bank of the Seine on a lazy Parisian afternoon in 1850. Here, the artists and poets, the writers and dreamers, gather in intimate bars and pavement cafés as the shadows lengthen, the famous rubbing shoulders with their followers, models and muses. Here they begin nights that will last until dawn and beyond, no care for the bustle of those in the streets, the office workers who hurry home with no time to think of anything other than the here and now.

Yet at five o'clock a ritual begins not only in Paris, but across the country and beyond. This is the time to take a moment, to lazily mix a glass of absinthe and drift away in the thrall of the Green Fairy. This is l'heure verte. In time, Europe's love for this unique and infamous beverage will lead to scandal, rumours of murder and insanity and, eventually, an outright ban. For now though, the green hour holds the country under its spell.

In fact, if not for a catastrophic aphid attack on the vineyards of Europe, absinthe might never have become popular at all. It began life in 1792 as a medicinal tonic developed in Switzerland by Doctor Pierre Ordinaire, a French physician. The doctor's potent blend of wormwood (a plant), fennel and anise had an eye-wateringly high alcohol content, but Ordinaire didn't envision the future that lay ahead for his concoction.

13 years later, Switzerland's Henri-Louis Pernod, who became famous for a liquor that bore his own name, opened the first ever absinthe distillery. The unusual drink found a market with soldiers, who used it as a cure-all, though it proved particularly effective in the fight against malaria.

Despite its popularity with the military, the aniseed-flavoured drink with its vivid green hue was a far from popular tippie. After all, in 19th-century France, wine was the drink of the nation. All of that changed in the late 1860s when



THE UNDER INFLUENCE

FOR HER FOLLOWERS, THE GREEN FAIRY HAD MANY CHARMS;
HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND NOTORIOUS

"DRUNK ON THE SLY, WITH
FEAR OF TREASON AND IF I
DRINK IT NO LONGER, IT IS
FOR A GOOD REASON"

PAUL VERLAINE

"A GLASS OF ABSINTHE
IS AS POETICAL AS
ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.
WHAT DIFFERENCE IS THERE
BETWEEN A GLASS OF
ABSINTHE AND A SUNSET?"

OSCAR WILDE

"THE HOUR FOR TAKING ABSINTHE WAS AT HAND" GUY DE MAUPASSANT

"I UNDERSTAND
THAT ABSINTHE
MAKES THE TART
GROW FONDER"
ERNEST DOWSON

"KEEP ALWAYS THIS DIM
CORNER FOR ME,
THAT I MAY SIT WHILE
THE GREEN HOUR
GLIDES, A PROUD
PAVINE OF TIME"

ALEISTER CROWLEY

"GOT TIGHT LAST NIGHT ON ABSINTHE
AND DID KNIFE TRICKS. GREAT SUCCESS
SHOOTING THE KNIFE UNDERHAND INTO
THE PIANO" ERNEST HEMINGWAY



"O GREEN ABSINTHE SEA, O CALM
ABSINTHE OBLIVION, NUMB MY SENSES
AND LET ME FALL ASLEEP IN PEACE"

AUGUST STRINDBERG

"I AM THE INSTIGATOR
OF CRIME
I AM RUIN AND SORROW
I AM SHAME
I AM DISHONOUR
I AM DEATH
I AM ABSINTHE"

MARIE CORELLI





L'Absinthe by Edgar Degas was called ugly and disgusting when first shown as many saw it as a blow to morality

“ACROSS THE WORLD, CELEBRITY THINKERS REACHED FOR A BOTTLE, HOPING TO FIND THEIR MUSE SOMEWHERE IN THE GREEN TIPPLE”

a parasitic aphid, the phylloxera, ravaged the vineyards of Europe, eventually reaching the fertile flora of France. With the vines stripped bare and the aphid showing no sign of lessening its grip, the drinkers of France were in need of something to fill their empty glasses.

With so many returning soldiers singing its praises, absinthe became the obvious choice, and it didn't take long until everyone in France was indulging in a glass. Although absinthe will always be associated with the bohemian set, especially those who caroused at the Moulin Rouge and whose poetry, artworks and escapades have become famed, the drink wasn't solely the preserve of the artistic classes.

Despite its reputation as 'the poet's poison', you were as likely to find a factory worker sipping absinthe in the suburbs as you were to glimpse Picasso indulging on the left bank and, crucially, the bourgeoisie loved it. Their lives were safe, secure and respectable, and in something so simple as the ritual pouring of a glass of absinthe, they tasted bohemian decadence. Tomorrow they would be respectable all over again, but the evening was for intoxicated debauchery.

When absinthe ensnared the bourgeoisie, its dominance was secured. Production increasing to meet the massive demand and rapidly falling prices put absinthe in everyone's reach. Although its popularity in most other countries didn't quite reach French levels of enjoyment, it was quaffed across the continent and beyond, reaching as far as the Czech lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Perhaps the only place where the popularity of absinthe rivalled its French standing was in Prague. Here absinthe was a favourite of the artistic community, while across the Atlantic in New Orleans a bar named The Absinthe Room opened in 1874 and attracted some very illustrious clients. Standing alone in the annals of absinthe lore is Spain, the only mainland continental country never to have banned the drink. Perhaps it's no coincidence that the original proprietor of that New Orleans bar was a Spanish national.

Across the world, celebrity thinkers reached for a bottle, hoping to find their muse somewhere in the green tippie. It inspired many paintings, including Édouard Manet's *The Absinthe Drinker*, which got his career off to a controversial start. Traditionally, full-length portraits were reserved for aristocracy

and royalty, but here was a painting of a drunken tramp. Similarly, Edgar Degas's *L'Absinthe* depicts the expressionless addicts, sitting isolated and zombie-like in a café, and Paul Gauguin's love of the mind-altering drink inspired his unmistakable post-impressionist works, its influence seen not in subject, but in the style that is uniquely Gauguin.

The most notorious episodes of absinthe consumption in the art world don't involve paint and canvas, however. Toulouse-Lautrec was so devoted to the drink that he carried a hollowed cane filled with it, so that he would never be far from a taste. His works make frequent reference to absinthe, and in Baz Luhrmann's 2001 movie *Moulin Rouge*, it's Toulouse-Lautrec who introduces the innocent hero to the Green Fairy on a riotous night on the town.

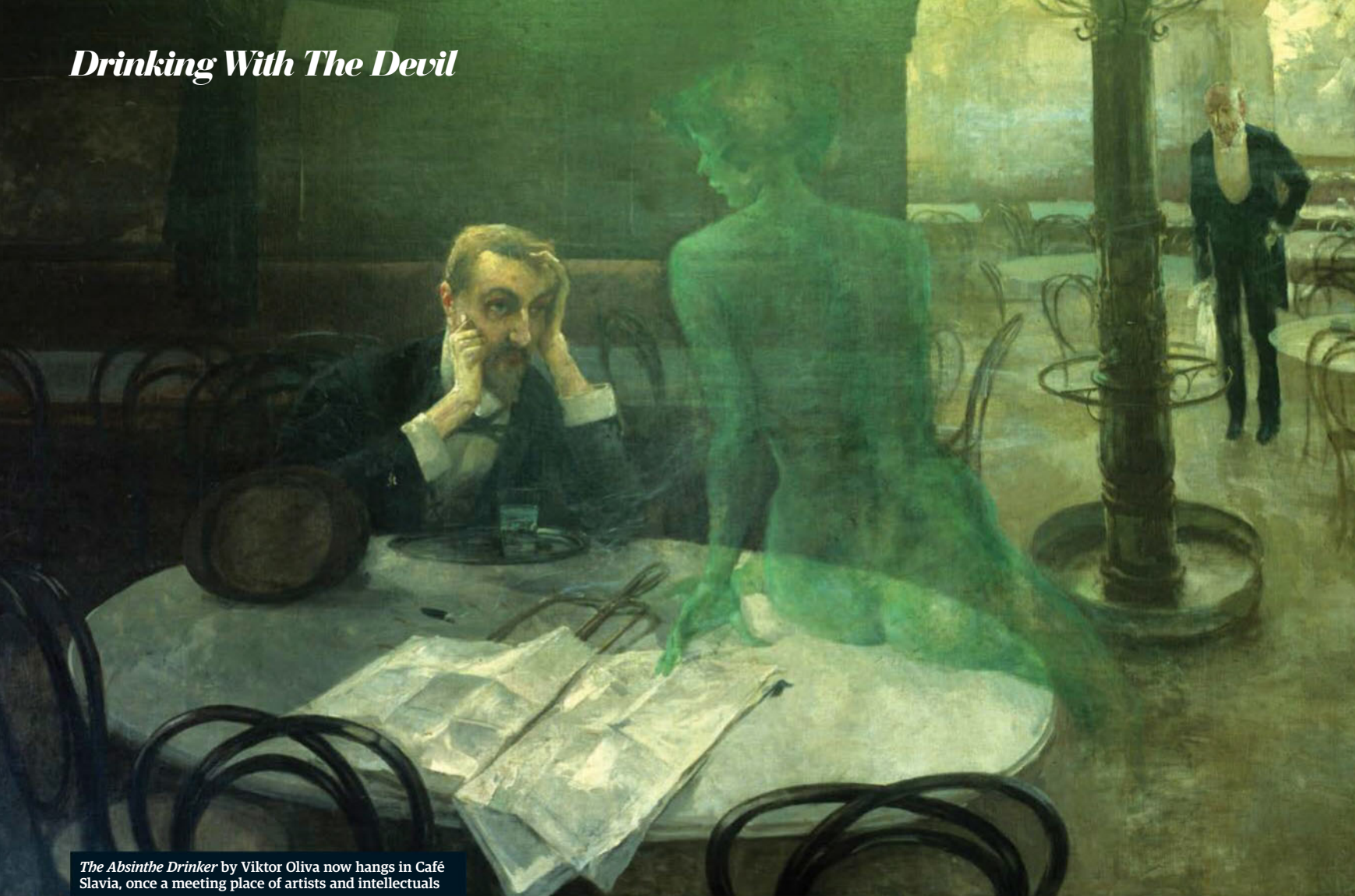
Vincent van Gogh, a man with a reputation for extremes, drank huge quantities of absinthe. Indeed, some believe that van Gogh was under its influence when, in a legendary episode of mania, he cut off his ear and then sent it to a brothel maid. Perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise to learn that van Gogh's companion during this incident was Paul Gauguin.

In the realms of literature, absinthe was no less influential. Charles Baudelaire and Guy de Maupassant drank it often and referenced it in their work. Playwright and author, Alfred Jarry, was so devoted to the Green Fairy that he painted his face green, took to his bicycle and pedalled through Paris singing its praises. Even Ernest Hemingway was among its many fans. In 1931, while intoxicated, he performed gun and knife tricks in his Florida home and reported them with glee to his friends.

For poet Paul Verlaine, the absinthe experience was considerably less good-humoured. A slave to



"Absente" poster for absinthe in a back street of Nice. Vincent van Gogh helped to popularise the drink



The Absinthe Drinker by Viktor Oliva now hangs in Café Slavia, once a meeting place of artists and intellectuals

alcohol, Verlaine's health failed and he spent his final years in destitution, his only comfort coming when he enjoyed the green hour with what little coin he could beg.

Verlaine's former lover, Arthur Rimbaud, is perhaps the most iconic of the bohemian absinthe drinkers. An anarchic artist with a need to shock, Rimbaud drank absinthe to open his mind, creating some of his most celebrated works under its influence. When Rimbaud and Verlaine's affair ended, Verlaine shot his lover, leaving him with a flesh wound. Later, Verlaine was rueful when he recalled that the couple had sold some of Rimbaud's poetry to pay for their absinthe binges. They had not taken copies of the pieces, meaning that these great works of the original wild child were lost forever.

Absinthe, of course, is notorious for its wormwood-fuelled psychoactive effects, which were mostly overstated if not outright fabricated.

“THOSE WHO ENJOYED IT WEREN'T ROLE MODELS, BUT SLOTHFUL WASTRELS, DRINKING AWAY THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LIVELIHOODS”

False rumours of psychotic side effects and hallucinations were played up enormously once the Green Fairy began to transform into the Green Curse. Works like those of Manet and Degas didn't show absinthe drinkers as glamorous bohemians, but as figures so jaded by the drink they were barely functioning at all. Hollow-eyed, dressed in drab clothes and alone with their drinks, on their initial exhibition such apparently moralistic works were unpopular. Eventually, however, the tide turned as the vineyards grew bountiful once more and the French wine industry began to recover.

The temperance movement and the wine trade might seem like odd bedfellows, but when they joined forces in the late-1800s to rid France of the supposed scourge of absinthe, they proved a powerful lobbying group. If drinking wine was civilised, classy and traditional, then taking absinthe was quite the opposite. Those who enjoyed it weren't role models, said the temperance movement, but slothful wastrels, drinking away their lives and their livelihoods, sacrificing their moral fibre for a thrill. With opinion shifting, the bourgeoisie turned their backs on the Green Fairy

THE LIFE OF THE GREEN FAIRY

C.400 BCE

Hippocrates recommends wormwood for the treatment of numerous physical ailments.

1792

Pierre Ordinaire, a Frenchman living in Switzerland, creates the first known documented bottle of absinthe and markets it for its health benefits.

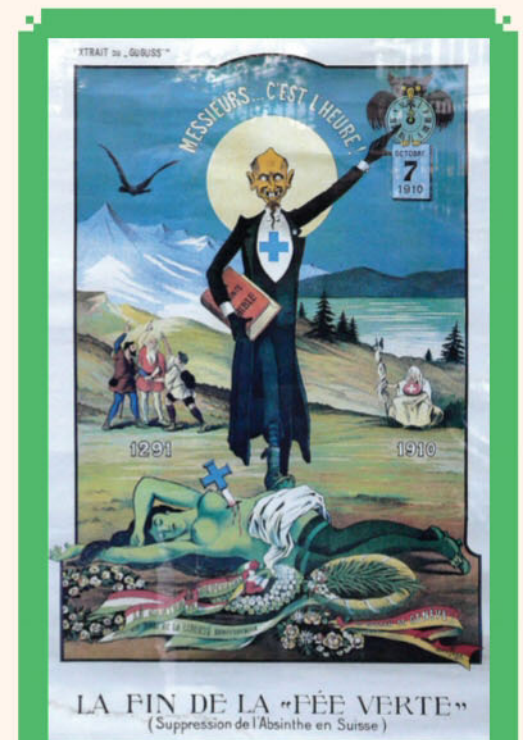
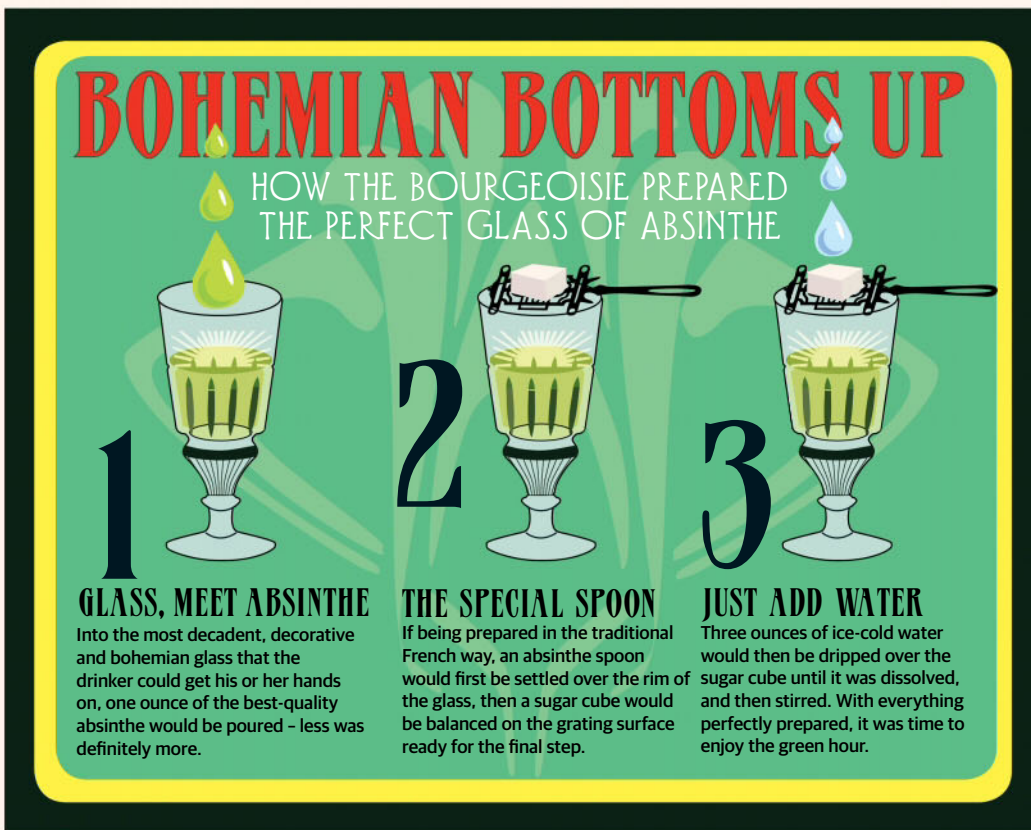
1795

Henri-Louis Pernod opens his Swiss absinthe distillery, following it a decade later with a French distillery.

1870

During the late 1860s, European vineyards had been partially destroyed by aphid infestation, and by 1870, absinthe has replaced wine as France's favourite drink.





THE GREEN FAIRY VERSUS THE MORAL MAJORITY

Although there had never been a shortage of alcohol nor those who abused it, absinthe became the focal point for the temperance movement. Its association with decadence, moral turpitude and the bohemian set made it a particularly attractive target for moral campaigners.

Experiments by psychiatrist Valentin Magnan appeared to prove that absinthe could send people mad. In fact, his experiments were flawed. He fed animals pure essence of wormwood, whereas absinthe contains only small amounts of the ingredient. Campaigners against absinthe weren't about to question the doctor, however, and they presented his findings as fact. Combined with the outcry over the Lanfray murders and the French wine lobby, absinthe's days were numbered.

too, keen to distance themselves from its rapidly souring reputation.

In 1905, a horrific crime proved just the fuel that the anti-absinthe movement needed and, just like the moral majority has throughout history, they didn't let the facts get in the way of their crusade. Although the drink had been banned in the Congo Free State as early as 1898, it remained legal across Europe and the United States of America. All of that was about to change.

Jean Lanfray was a French labourer who lived in Switzerland with his pregnant wife and two young children. He was also a violent alcoholic. On 28 August 1905, Lanfray spent the day binging on a potent mix of alcohol, including two glasses of absinthe. When he returned home, a domestic argument spiralled out of control and ended when Lanfray tragically murdered his wife and their children. Found guilty of the crime, he was spared the death penalty but imprisoned for life. By now painfully sober, Lanfray couldn't endure the overwhelming guilt and took his own life, hanging himself in prison just days after the court read out the guilty verdict.

Although Lanfray had consumed more than 15 glasses of alcohol that day including wine, cognac and crème de menthes, it was those two measures of absinthe that were blamed for the murders. With the temperance movement and the popular press railing against it, the death knell was sounding for the Green Fairy. In 1906, Belgium banned the sale and consumption of absinthe and, as outrage over the killings spread through the press and across borders, Europe and North America followed suit. In the United Kingdom, however, no such ban ever came into force and absinthe drinking could continue unabated, much to the relief of the likes of Oscar Wilde and Aleister Crowley.

As the years passed and new moral panics erupted, absinthe was eventually forgotten and, one by one, the bans on the once notorious drink were lifted. In Switzerland, the birthplace of the controversial tippie, the ban came into force in 1910 and remained until as recently as 2005, when it was finally set aside. France, meanwhile, found plenty of loopholes to get around the ban, but the time of absinthe had passed and the green hour became nothing more than a cultural hangover.

Today, absinthe retains its glamorous allure, forever associated with the Parisian bohemians and their romantic, often tragic era. It remains a favourite of those who seek to be part of that long-gone set, of artists in search of a muse or just something a little different. Its notoriety may have dimmed but the modern absinthe-drinker can still indulge in any number of brands with even musician Marilyn Manson putting his name to a bottle. The green hour is over, the Green Curse reversed, but for some, the Green Fairy remains a regular visitor.

© Alamy

1890

With absinthe's popularity established, people across France observe the green hour, from the most decadent artist in a Parisian café to the most unassuming worker in a local inn.

1905

Jean Lanfray murders his wife and children. Seized on by enthusiastic abstinence campaigners and aggrieved wine producers, the crime becomes the catalyst for the eventual absinthe ban.

1906

Belgium is the first European nation to ban absinthe. Over the next decade, it is banned across the continent.



1912

The United States of America bans the import, sale and consumption of absinthe.

1915

France bans absinthe, and once again wine becomes the national drink. The green hour is over.



King Louis XIV of France

The Sun King was both a shining beacon and a dangerously disruptive force

Written by Dom Reseigh-Lincoln

For a man that would become France's longest serving monarch, the young Louis spent almost two decades of his reign without a shred of power. From the tender age of four, he sat beneath the wing of his mentor, Cardinal Jules Raymond Mazarin. The Italian papal minister formed a strong bond with the king-in-waiting, overseeing his education and reinforcing two distinct principles - that the nobility of France were a dangerous faction that had to be kept in check, and that the sovereignty of the crown should be absolute. These were principles shared by the other key figure of Louis's early life - his mother, Queen Anne of Austria.

During his childhood, a civil war known as The Fronde erupted across France - a conflict that saw the disenfranchised nobility, the lawmakers of the Parlement de Paris and the people of France themselves band together to overthrow Anne and her pitbull of a first minister. Mazarin had levied high taxes in order to slow the growth of the Parisian population and the nation as a whole, but it had only served to anger the people. France had also been locked in the Thirty Years' War with Spain for the best part of 13 years, and its continued commitment to the conflict had ground down to a financially ruinous stalemate.

With this in mind, Anne and Mazarin took drastic action with a single goal - consolidating power in the crown for Louis's true ascension. France soon signed a treaty with Spain, the Peace of Westphalia, which saw it officially recognise the sovereignty of the other nations within Europe. It was the formation of an alliance of royal self-determination with each nation involved officially recognising the right of each ruler to control their own kingdom. The treaty effectively shredded the power of the French parliament and the nobility, but this bold move to consolidate Louis's future would nearly tear the country apart.

For the next five years, the young king would find himself bundled into the shadows. His country was at war with itself and he, the linchpin of his protector's machinations, was a target constantly under threat. He was smuggled out of Paris multiple times during the troubles and sometimes forced to live in hiding like a pauper as the conflict raged on. Those leading the revolt were the Frondeurs, political rebels who were opposed to Mazarin and Anne, but their ultimate lack of desire to remove Louis from the throne saw the revolt fizzle out as the young king came of age.

When Mazarin died in 1661, Louis's true reign had finally begun. Now in control of France, Louis's

Defining moment

The Fronde

A series of civil wars erupted in France when Louis XIV was barely ten years old. The conflicts broke out when the Parlement de Paris, the princes, the nobles and a significant proportion of the country rebelled against the monarch and the reforms of Cardinal Mazarin. The Fronde saw the young king forced to endure a life in hiding as Mazarin fought to maintain order.

1648-53



Hero or Villain?
KING LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE

"His royal protection of writers, poets, painters and composers ushered in a golden age for the arts"



Hero or Villain?

KING LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE



Louis XIV enjoyed an incredibly close relationship with his mother, but was also raised by a series of wet nurses including Dame Longuet de La Giraudière pictured here



character began to form. He shocked every minister and politician in Paris by imprisoning Mazarin's successor, corrupt finance minister Nicolas Fouquet following a three-year-long trial, and then declaring himself his own first minister. He had made a very public statement to his subjects: I am the king, and my rule is absolute.

This self-assurance was Louis in his purest form - a man who saw himself as the centre of his realm in all matters. It was a quality that manifested itself as selfishness and defiance in the early years of his reign as he began openly dismantling many of the policies enacted by Mazarin and his mother. Louis was a true reformist monarch, one that relished the desire to oversee all aspects of his nation. He was also a debauched creature, one who embraced wine, women and excess with wanton abandon, but he proved early on he was a shrewd soul who refused to be cajoled by his ministers.

In the decade that followed, Louis began reforming French law and practices with a never-before-seen fervour. With Fouquet removed, he appointed Jean-Baptiste Colbert as controller-general of finances in 1665 and oversaw the reduction of the national debt through a much more efficient approach to taxation.

Another surprising move was his decision to make all nobles exempt from taxes - it seemed ludicrous to the common man, but it was a stroke of political genius. The nobility were now bound to the whim of the king, having to prove their status without angering the crown.

Louis wasn't willing to bow to any section of his kingdom, especially those that had revolted against his protectors in his youth, but the endlessly confident and self-assured monarch understood that a balance would need to be established. He knew ministers in Paris believed that they were above the king's edicts, so he upended their machinations by unofficially

moving the political seat of power to Versailles, a simple royal hunting lodge that Louis revitalised into an opulent palace to rival any in Europe. Eventually the true seat of power would be moved from Paris to Versailles as Louis literally re-sculpted the kingdom around himself.

He also made a controversial decision on something that many of his predecessors had ignored - supporting a key component of the fast-forming middle class of France. By building the Hôtel national des Invalides in Paris, which served as a hospital and retirement home for French war veterans, Louis was one of the first French kings to use royal influence to acknowledge and protect those that had sacrificed so much in his family's name. Whether it was a solely political move or one made out of Louis's own compassion, it made a growing faction of the burgeoning bourgeoisie a powerful new supporter.

His reforms also extended to the cultural, as a result of his own passion for sculpture, theatre and literature. During his rule, Louis brought the Académie Française under his patronage and used it to turn Versailles into the cultural epicentre of Europe. His royal protection of writers, poets, painters and composers ushered in a golden age for the arts - soon everything from fashion to dance choreography was influencing the entire continent. Louis wanted to

Defining moment The expansion of the Palace of Versailles

When Louis assumed absolute control of the crown in his early 20s, the young monarch knew the popularity and political influence of the crown was waning in Paris, so he moved the seat of French power to Versailles. Not only was the expansive Palace of Versailles a grand architectural statement, it represented an explicit statement of the king's absolute rule.

1661-1710

Hero or Villain? KING LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE



Louis XIV had an almost fantastical relationship with Versailles and his close courtiers, and was fond of allegorical paintings such as this



The sheer amount of busts, statues, portraits and murals created in Louis XIV's image weren't just a reflection of his ego, but of his role in the resurgence of the arts in 17th-century France

Defining moment

War of the Grand Alliance

Louis XIV's reign can often be characterised by an endless need to reiterate the power of the crown and France's place within the ever-evolving political arena of early modern Europe. The War of the Grand Alliance, fought between France and the other great powers of Europe, was another expression of the monarch's refusal to appear weak in the face of any kind of threat.

1688-97



Like many a king before him, Louis XIV became consumed with the need to war with other nations to acquire or reclaim lands in the name of France

"He ruled for an incredible 72 years - the longest reign of any European monarch"

become the Sun King, the source of all light, and his efforts were paying off.

For the first half of his reign, Louis's actions as king of France were informed by his hunger to establish both himself and his kingdom as the dominant power in Europe. As such, the French monarch wasn't willing to be held at bay by the Peace of Westphalia that had secured the end of the Thirty Years' War. France had been too long under the heel of England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire. France needed to reassert itself - and that meant war.

As a warring monarch, the darker and more aggressive side of Louis was brought to the surface. He funded France's involvement in the War of Devolution (1667-68) over control of the Spanish Netherlands, France's power base - it ultimately proved a tactical failure when England, Sweden, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire united against him, but it worked wonders for his national image. By directing the conflict from the front line, Louis solidified his image as the proverbial Sun King in the minds of both his soldiers and the people back home.

That hunger for greater status led Louis to a renewed conflict that proved far more fruitful in the form of the Dutch War (1672-78). The Sun King wanted the Spanish Netherlands and he was willing to do anything to acquire them. The war nearly bankrupted the kingdom, but it bolstered the realm with new lands and territories and the confirmation of France's ascension in the political theatre of Europe. Those same desires drove him to the War of the Grand Alliance (1688-97), in which all the major powers of Europe rose up to halt France and Louis's hunger for more territory.

In his later years, Louis XIV's character went through something of a transformation, and with it so did the state of the realm. While devout from birth, his religious leanings began to radicalise and it was here that his Catholic upbringing took hold. France was a Protestant nation (and a poorer one for all Louis's wars), but the monarchy was absolute, so Louis imposed the same reform in the religious sphere that he had used elsewhere. He revoked the Edict of Nantes, issued by his grandfather Henry IV

in 1598, which had granted freedom of worship and other rights to French Protestants (Huguenots). He then razed Protestant churches to the ground and created a culture of fear that drove Protestants in their thousands out of the country in exodus.

On 1 September 1715, Louis XIV succumbed to gangrene at his palace in Versailles. He ruled for an incredible 72 years - the longest reign of any European monarch in history - and in that time the man on the throne left a lasting impression on the kingdom. He revitalised France, rebuilding the economy and fortifying the nation as the dominant military power in Europe. But he lost the people he gained as the resplendent and opulent Sun King, forcing religious reform in a time where spiritual diversity had barely found an equilibrium.

If Louis XIV was guilty of one thing, it was an unrelenting need to shed weakness. From consolidating his personal rule to needless territorial wars, the Sun King was a man who shaped France by the nature of his desires.

Was King Louis XIV a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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Reconnaissance left wanting

The attacks were marred by poor intelligence. The first mistake came when the Russian onshore batteries were believed to be more formidable and heavily manned than they actually were. Tōgō therefore conducted a more cautious advance than he perhaps should have.

A real fog of war

Throughout the battle, the port was covered in a dense smoke that made it tough for both sides to uphold effective communications. The inconclusive result was down to the poor conditions, not enough planning and the hesitancy of both admirals.

Torpedo ships

Prior to the battle the next day, the Japanese attack on the Russian fleet was carried out by torpedo ships. Equipped with Whitehead Torpedoes, they let loose a volley of projectiles but they were much less effective than predicted.

The new Japanese fleet

Russian propaganda mocked the Japanese navy but they were unaware that their Shikishima and Fuji class battleships were on loan from the British. With Royal Navy engineering, these metal monsters were part of the best navy Japan had fielded in battle to date.

A war that could have been avoided

Russian diplomats were so confident that Japan, a country new to the ideas of Western imperialism, wouldn't go to war that they were deliberately lax with their negotiations. Their confidence was unfounded, however, and as talks collapsed, all ties were severed and Japan mobilised its navy ready to strike.

Targets on both land and sea

Poor accuracy dominated proceedings, with Japanese ships dividing their fire between rival vessels and the land-based batteries. 12-inch guns were aimed at the coastal forts while eight-inch and six-inch guns dealt with adversaries on the water.



BATTLE OF PORT ARTHUR

LIAODONG PENINSULA, MANCHURIA 8-9 FEBRUARY 1904

Written by Jack Griffiths

The Russo-Japanese war was kick-started by a short yet brutal engagement that later snowballed into a larger conflict. The fallout from the 1900 Boxer Rebellion and Western involvement in Far Eastern Asian affairs had given the Russian Empire an increased presence in territories of Japanese interest, and both nations were on tenterhooks. After St Petersburg stalled on an agreement to leave Manchuria in 1903, Japan took matters into its own hands. Admiral Heihachirō Tōgō, known as 'the Nelson of the East', masterminded the mission and two flotillas were sent to the secondary target, the Russian base at Dalny, while three made their way to Port Arthur, a natural harbour in which the Russians had settled a vast portion of their navy. Japanese destroyers crept into position as the plan went into action.

The objective was to sink as many vessels as possible from the three flotillas of the First Pacific Squadron that lurked in the bay. Tōgō's master plan got off to a bumbling start as his fleet was spotted by a Russian patrol. The defenders, under orders not to fire, sped back to dock to alert their admiral, Oskar Victorovich Stark. Now with nothing to lose, the Japanese task force made it into the harbour, and without further delay, the hatches were opened and torpedoes smashed into the hulls of the Russian ships. The defensive fortifications were now alerted, and as searchlights scoured the bay

and the shoreline guns prepared to fire, the Imperial Japanese Navy made its escape.

As the cold light of day glistened across the port, Admiral Dewa Shigetō reported that despite the bombardment, none of the Russian ships had been sunk, with the only solace for the attackers coming from the fact that the squadron's two most modern ships had received some damage. Back on the shoreline, the Russians were incensed that an attack was undertaken without an official declaration of war. Their complaints fell on deaf ears, however, as the Western powers backed Japan in what they saw as a daring, legal and just act. Dewa was convinced that the Russians were demoralised and would not put up a fight in the face of further attacks. The true situation was that the Russians were ready for action with battle flags flying at full mast. Nevertheless, Tōgō's fleet renewed its attack at 11am led by the flagship Mikasa. A fierce fire fight erupted but both sides were too cautious to make any real gains, and after 40 minutes of battle, the Japanese limped out of the bay, reasoning that the port was far too well defended to attack just by sea.

The result was inconclusive, as neither side lost any vessels. The Japanese had four ships damaged and the Russians had seven. The Japanese Combined Fleet proceeded to blockade the port and then officially declared war. Later that year they would return to unleash a full-scale onslaught.



Russian Far East Fleet

BATTLESHIPS 7
CRUISERS 5



ADMIRAL OSKAR VICTOROVICH STARK

LEADER

The leader of the First Pacific Squadron, Stark was holding a party for his wife on the eve of the battle.

Strengths Vast experience from the Russo-Turkish War.

Weakness Underestimated the Japanese capabilities.



PROTECTED CRUISER

KEY UNIT

German built, the 3,000-ton reconnaissance cruiser was one of the fastest of its kind in the world.

Strengths Faster than most other ships and heavily equipped.

Weakness Its armour wasn't the strongest available.



120MM GUN

KEY WEAPON

Novik had six of these guns that had the power to blast the Japanese out of the water.

Strengths Shells could be loaded and fired in quick succession

Weakness Prone to burst barrels.

02 Russian railroads

The thing the Japanese are most wary of is the Russian train-building programme. Since 1897, the Russians have been laying down tracks in Chinese territory, tightening their grip on economic control in the region. Manchuria is rich in natural resources and the single-rail track that leads to Port Arthur is in Japanese sights.

03 Overnight assault

A surprise attack is launched that night with no formal declaration of war. The Japanese fleet advances into the harbour, ensuring they are out of range of the onshore batteries. A Russian patrol spots the enemy vessels and speeds back to inform command. Upon receiving the news, Oskar Victorovich Stark orders his troops not to fire, as war has not formally been declared. The Japanese are in no mood to hold back.

04 An inefficient attack

Back in Japanese ranks, confusion from the Russians discovering the fleet means two Japanese destroyers collide with each other while three others lose communications. Despite this blunder, the torpedoes are launched into the Russian ships and Tsarevich, Retvizan, and Pallada all take hits. Job seemingly done, the Japanese retreat back into the dead of night.

01 Port Arthur

The natural harbour is dominated by steep hills on one side that looked out to the Yellow Sea. Stories of fearsome Russian defences with 150mm guns and giant mortars make the Japanese reluctant to attack head on.

05 The next day

Admiral Dewa is tasked with assessing the overnight damage. Sailing close to the port, the lack of Russian response causes him to confidently state that the Russian navy and shoreline defences are spent and Tōgō's forces should advance imminently and crush the enemy while it is reeling. Tōgō listens to his fellow admiral, and although he has reservations about engaging the Russians so close to land, an attack is called.



10 Start of the war

After 40 minutes, the skirmish is over. 90 Japanese mariners have been killed or wounded, while the Russians record 150 casualties. Novik is repaired and both Dewa and Tōgō live to fight another day. This isn't to be the last bloodshed seen at Port Arthur in the Russo-Japanese War.

09 Hasty retreat

The Japanese score more big hits on several Russian battleships but return fire forces Tōgō's hand. After more vessels begin to take damage, he fears a trap and orders a full reverse. The ships are pounded by the shore battery during this manoeuvre but escape to fight another day.

08 Novik and Mikasa

Dense smog from the smoke of the guns engulfs the bay. Dewa pays for his poor call as a shell shatters Mikasa's aft bridge, wounding several officers. Buoyed by this success, the Russians become more careless and the cruiser Novik steams forward and unleashes a torpedo salvo. Incredibly, all the underwater missiles miss their target and Novik pays for this with a big hit that forces it to retreat.

06 Unaware of failure

The troops are cheered by news from afar that the Japanese have taken Korea's capital, Seoul, but word has still not come through from the secondary attack at Dalny. The results from Port Arthur are less successful with only three torpedoes striking their targets, and the Russians are down – but not out. Unaware of this, Dewa makes an executive decision to attack again.

07 Meeting of the fleets

The Combined Fleet steams in to the bay, causing Russian cruiser Boyarin to scarper at the very sight of the intimidating metal warlords. Now only 7,500 metres of open water lie between the opposing sides and battle begins, with the Russians benefiting from support fire from the coast.



Imperial Japanese Navy

BATTLESHIPS 6
CRUISERS 5



ADMIRAL HEIHACHIRŌ TŌGŌ

LEADER

The admiral respected the Russian navy's might and fully understood their strengths and weaknesses after careful study.

Strengths Navy generals were promoted on merit not social status.

Weakness Too much faith in Dewa's judgement.



SHIKISHIMA CLASS BATTLESHIPS

KEY UNIT

Sold to the Japanese by Britain, the Combined Fleet had these impressive pre-dreadnought battleships at its disposal.

Strengths Designed and built by the Royal Navy.

Weakness Western military techniques only recently adopted.

WHITEHEAD TORPEDO

KEY WEAPON

Designed by English engineer Robert Whitehead, the weapon was the first effective self-propelled naval torpedo.

Strengths A popular design used by navies around the world.

Weakness First made in 1866 so it was nearly obsolete.

THEODORA

The empress from the brothel

As a courtesan who had risen to the rank of queen, Theodora was both loved and reviled. Just who was the woman behind one of Byzantium's greatest emperors?

Written by Willow Winsham

Born to a bear trainer and an actress in Constantinople, the woman fated to become the wife of a Byzantine emperor hardly had an auspicious start in life. In Theodora's early years her life took a path that her later detractors would revel in, providing effortless fuel for the gossip that would surround her even after death. For there is little doubt that Theodora had two intertwined and equally suspect occupations before her marriage: she was well known both as an actress and as a courtesan. This line of work was also taken by at least one of her two sisters, and it is said that her mother ushered the girls into their professions after the death of their father, Acacius.

John of Ephesus, a writer sympathetic towards Theodora, refers to her as having come "from the brothel", while the less friendly Procopius, whose writings are our largest single source of information on Theodora, also repeats this detail. From Procopius, we learn that the young Theodora made quite a name for herself: with her provocative dress and habit of stripping on stage, she titillated her audiences, even allowing buckets of grain to be emptied between her legs for geese to peck out. When the performances were over, Theodora went further still and offered herself to all, both high and low, attending banquets to drum up custom.

However true or not the worst exaggerations of Procopius, this was not a life that would do for one

such as Theodora. Early on it became apparent that she was intelligent, resourceful and able to think for herself, traits that would serve her well. At 16, Theodora left Constantinople for North Africa, where she spent four years in the role as mistress to Hecebolius, a Syrian official. The whole matter ended in tears, but this did not bring her down; on her slow return to Constantinople via Alexandria and Antioch, Theodora met patriarchs and others of influence, learning and honing the skills and manners that she displayed to such great effect as empress. It was during this time that she is said to have converted to the controversial Monophysite religion, which held the belief that the human and divine natures of Christ were fused into one.

Setting her former occupations behind her, in 522, in her early 20s, Theodora returned to Constantinople. She set herself up as a wool spinner, making her home close to the palace. Here she caught the eye of Justinian - heir and nephew to Emperor Justin I. The middle-aged Justinian was captivated by her, and was determined to marry Theodora: but there was one, apparently insurmountable, obstacle. An old law stated that government officials were prohibited from marrying actresses, and although Theodora had renounced her previous role, her dalliance with the stage now barred her from becoming the wife of the man who was heir to the empire. To further



"The young Theodora made quite a name for herself: with her provocative dress and habit of stripping on stage, she titillated her audiences"

EMPRESS THEODORA
c. 500 - 28 June 548

Brief Bio

The middle of three sisters, Theodora navigated her way from lowly beginnings to emerge as a woman perfectly suited to be consort and empress to Justinian I, the Byzantine emperor known as 'The Last Roman'. She was incredibly influential in her role as empress, enacting reforms and even helping to save her husband's throne.

THEODORA: THE EMPRESS FROM THE BROTHEL

compound the problem, Euphambia, empress to Justin I, was a firm upholder of this law, and, due to religious and personal differences, was further ill-disposed towards Theodora in particular. It seemed as if the couple were to be thwarted, but luck was on their side. Euphambia died c.524, and it became clear then that resistance to the match had been decidedly one-sided. Free now to act without causing himself marital strife and also under pressure from his heir, Justin repealed the law that stood in the way of the happy couple and they married soon after, uncaring of the scandal that followed in its wake.

In 527, Justinian came into his role of emperor, and Theodora found herself empress of Byzantium. If ashamed of her past in any way, Theodora made no effort to hide it; friends from her old life were made welcome at the palace, and her illegitimate daughter - whether Justinian's or from a previous relationship is unclear - was free to join her mother. Justinian likewise does not seem to have been troubled by his wife's past, perhaps in part due to his own less-than-illustrious beginnings. Despite or perhaps because of her humble start in life, Theodora was a stickler for ceremony and show in her role of empress. As on the stage, looks and appearances were everything, and she would not let anyone - high or low - forget for one moment that she was empress. Images of Theodora show a well-dressed woman, resplendent in gold and purple robes and glittering jewellery, the crown that marked her power and high position visible for all to see. Theodora also made sure she was given due honour and acknowledgement by visiting officials and members of the imperial household, often, it was alleged, making important dignitaries wait for hours at a time before receiving them.

Theodora was not content to be a trophy wife, and there are clear indications that she sought to

better herself. She was an avid reader, choosing to read herself rather than be read to, and was actively involved in the governance of the empire. She saw that those she favoured were promoted and received positions, while actively working to remove those who did not support her or looked down on her. The empress did not suffer fools, and, according to Theodora's detractors at least, did not hesitate to remove those who displeased her. It was not unusual for a Byzantine empress to have influence both in court and even political matters, bestowing patronage and holding sway with her husband. Likewise, communicating with foreign envoys and visiting dignitaries was well within the remit of the role. With Theodora, however, came the first time that an empress went further; not only did she fill the conventionally accepted place of consort, but, according

to some accounts, she was empress regnant in her own right in all but name. It is hardly surprising that there would be hostility towards the upstart empress, and there were those who grumbled, both behind closed doors and publicly, about the brazen woman from such humble beginnings. Indeed, Theodora's seeming flaunting of her past and refusal to disown her background would have been seen as a challenge to the established order.

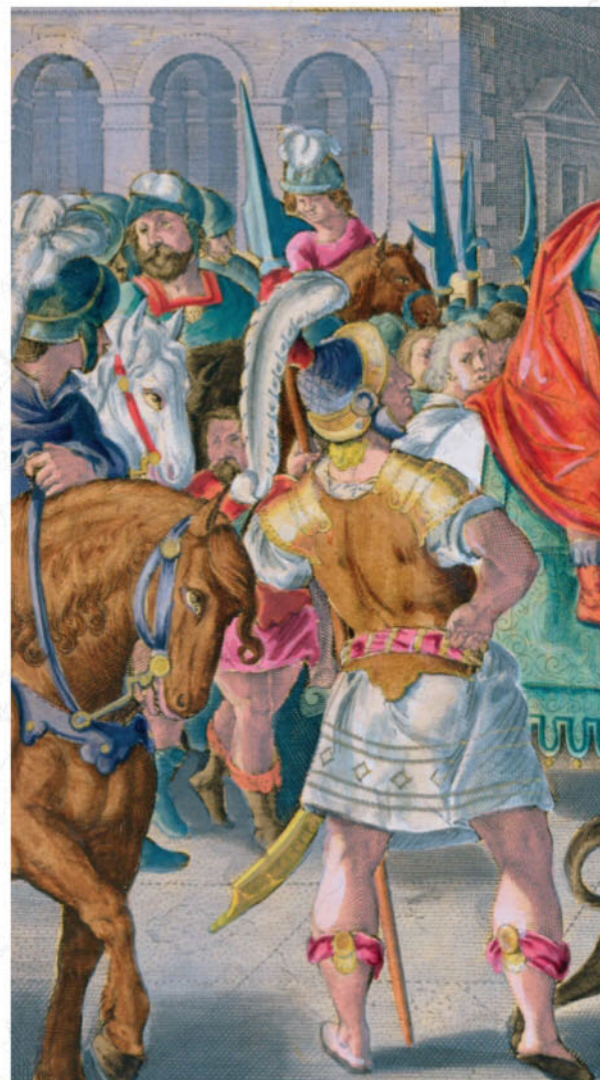
Unsurprisingly then, when Justinian embarked upon a series of reforms within the city, Theodora was not idle. The rights of women were something that particularly concerned Theodora. In 528, women of all classes were protected by a law that ordered the death penalty for kidnap or rape, whereas before lower class women and slaves were exempt, at the mercy of anyone. In 534-535, laws on prostitution were also tightened, and it became illegal to force or coerce anyone into the profession. Likewise, women were granted more rights in cases of divorce and also where property was concerned



Theodora would prove to be her husband's strongest supporter



Empress Theodora urges Justinian to fight the mob, reminding him that "purple makes a fine shroud" - better to die fighting as an emperor than to run away



THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

One of the most powerful forces in Europe for 1,000 years

The Byzantine Empire that was to become so powerful began in the year 330, when the Emperor Constantine founded a new city, Constantinople, on the site of the former Greek colony of Byzantium. The two halves of the empire, the West and the East, diverged further and further over the years, but this proved to be beneficial to the eastern part, which survived after the western half fell in 476 before the Visigoth barbarian Odoacer.

Ruled by Roman law and with Roman-based political institutions, the main languages of the empire were Latin and Greek. A prominent power through most of its existence, the Byzantine Empire reached its greatest peak geographically during the reign of Justinian, during which most of the Western Empire was reclaimed. At the height of its powers, the empire was a seat of culture; theology,

art and literature were promoted and preserved within it. There was also a large influence on the West as Byzantine scholars were commissioned to translate Greek and Arabic texts that would otherwise have been lost. Despite many challenges, the empire kept its position due to strength of location, power of wealth and political influence.

Despite this, the Byzantine Empire was in decline from the 13th century, suffering losses both economically and territorial. By the 14th century, the empire was increasingly threatened by the rising Turks. The end finally came on 29 May 1453 when Constantinople was attacked and won by the Ottoman emperor Mehmed II. Emperor Constantine died fighting as the city was taken, sealing the fate of the long-lived empire, with the iconic Hagia Sophia cathedral taken over and turned into a mosque.

THEODORA: THE EMPRESS FROM THE BROTHEL



through her direct involvement, and killing a wife who had committed adultery was also prohibited.

In all of this, Theodora had the backing of the emperor, who listened to and respected her views. In particular, Theodora was instrumental in attempts to reform the corruption in Constantinople's brothels. Prostitution was a major issue within the city, and exploitation and mistreatment were rife. With her husband's backing, Theodora set out to address this, setting up a convent as an escape for the women caught in this abusive life. Sources differ, however, and two distinct versions of events can be read. In one telling, the women were rescued from the horrors of the streets, living in comfort and harmony in their reformed lives behind the convent walls. Procopius, however, paints a more sinister picture: in his version, the women were kidnapped, moved into the convent against their will and forcibly reformed. The empress, far from being their saviour, was in fact jailer and tormentor; the women did not want to be removed from the life they knew, and some even committed suicide by throwing themselves onto the rocks below the convent in utter despair at their 'rescue'.

Not mentioned by contemporary sources, it is likely that the worst excesses recounted by Procopius were part of the embittered smear campaign later carried out against Theodora and Justinian. Whether truthful or



Two monks present silkworms smuggled from China to Emperor Justinian



Here, some of Theodora's ladies in waiting flaunt the latest fashion of the Byzantine court

THEODORA: THE EMPRESS FROM THE BROTHEL

not, however, there are hints at a darker side to Theodora's story, at the lengths the proud and self-righteous empress would go to achieve her aims. There are tales of forced marriages at Theodora's behest, and the vindictive hounding of officials who displeased her from office. Although not proven, there were also rumours Theodora was involved in the murder of Amalasuintha of the Goths, a potential rival for Justinian's hand.

It is Theodora's reported influence during the events of the infamous Nika revolt, however, that are the most cited example of her power and influence both in political matters and with her husband. In January 532, the Hippodrome in

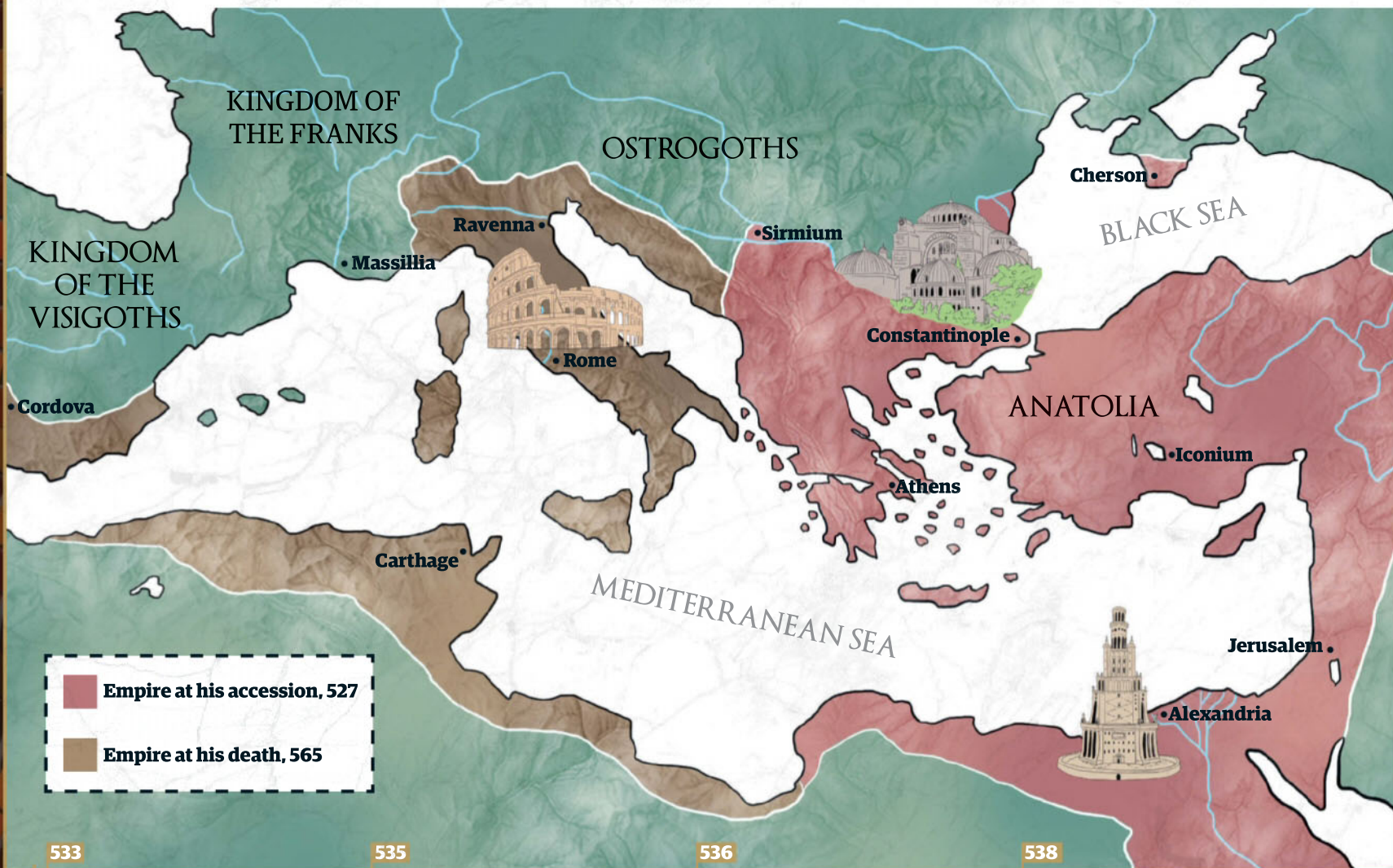
Constantinople, the venue of the popular chariot races, was the scene of the biggest challenge to Justinian's reign. The sweeping reforms and expansive building programme instigated by the emperor throughout the city were met with protest at the disruption they caused, and this discontent erupted as the pressures took their toll on an already strained population. Riots broke out, and although they were put down and the ringleaders rounded up, two escaped, with mercy demanded for the fugitives at the next races. When this was denied by Justinian, violence surged afresh, and with the additional involvement of members of the aristocracy, it became not just an occasion

of popular unrest, but a political coup with the intention of removing the emperor for good.

A rival candidate, a nobleman with imperial blood named Hypatius, was proposed and enthroned, the violence in the Hippodrome escalating and forcing Justinian and his advisers back into the palace. The emperor was prepared to flee, when the former actress stepped forward to perform perhaps the most important role of her life. It was not, Theodora told her husband, time to run away – an emperor should never be in the position of fugitive, and it was better to die an emperor in the role allotted to him than to be safe in hiding. Shamed, scolded or given much-needed fight, Justinian stood firm. Sending his troops to the Hippodrome, the revolt was decisively crushed, with between 30,000 and 35,000 rebels left dead. The pretender Hypatius was executed, as were others closely involved, and Justinian emerged the victor: his position unassailable and his wife vindicated and triumphant.

CLAIMING BACK THE WEST

With Theodora at his side, Justinian embarked upon a determined quest to reclaim lands lost to the former Roman Empire in the west. Just how successful was he in this mission?



533

North Africa

Justinian's troops win a decisive victory, reclaiming the North African territories that had been conquered by the Vandals, marking the beginning of two decades of conquest.

535

Sicily

General Belisarius invades with a force of 7,500 men and, meeting little resistance, conquers Sicily, gaining a gateway through into Italy and beyond.

536

Rome

Rome is captured in December, only to be besieged by Vitigis, the king of the Ostrogoths, from February 537 until March 538. Justinian's troops emerge triumphant.

538

Milan

The city is claimed by Mundilas, but this victory is short lived; despite relief being sent, Milan is recaptured and burned by the vengeful might of the Gothic army.

After Nika, it was clear that Justinian and his empress were there to stay, and never again was there such a serious challenge to his title. Theodora had been instrumental in this display of power, and is generally considered to have saved the day. It was not the only time she was said to have saved Justinian's throne: when in the early 540s Justinian lay seriously ill with plague, it was Theodora who effectively took over the reins of state, holding them until her husband recovered.

Based on mutual respect and affection as it was, the nature of Theodora's relationship with Justinian meant that they were able to present a united front, even when they differed in opinion. One area where this was abundantly clear was in

matters of religion. Theodora had converted to the controversial Monophysite brand of Christianity at an early age, while the emperor was firm in his Chalcedonian beliefs. The fact they were able to maintain their differences while keeping their respect for each other and working together as a united force showed a lot. Here again Theodora's influence can be seen; she not only founded a Monophysite monastery, but she also offered protection in the palace itself for those who were in danger for their beliefs, sheltering Monophysite bishops and leaders.

One in particular, Anthimus, the patriarch of Constantinople, she sheltered for 12 years in her own chambers. Theodora is also said to have outfoxed her own husband when it came

to the conversion of the people of Nobatae in southern Egypt; Justinian had earmarked them for the Chalcedonian faith, but through her wiles, Theodora caused his missionaries to be delayed, her own Monophysite men arriving first and winning the people to the Monophysite cause.

Theodora died in Constantinople on 28 June 548. Her influence continued even after her death, however, through the respect and honour Justinian showed to her name, the emperor's grief at her funeral declared to be most genuine by those who observed it. Not only did he maintain the promise made to his wife to protect the Monophysite community she had established, Justinian also continued to enact legislation that dealt with the rights of women as his wife had done during her life, ensuring that Theodora's legacy to the city that had known most of her life was to live long after her. Charismatic, bold and unforgettable, Theodora remains one of the most fascinating and influential empresses the Byzantine Empire had ever known.



CEILING OF THE BASILICA OF SAN VITALE

One of the wonders of Ravenna, Italy, the Basilica holds a unique position in the history of art and architecture. Begun in 526 and completed 21 years later, this marvel of Roman and Byzantine styles is the only structure of its kind to survive from Justinian I's reign, and holds the biggest collection of Byzantine mosaics outside of Constantinople.



As it holds so many breathtaking mosaics, the Basilica, along with other structures in Ravenna, has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site

540

Ravenna

The one-time capital of the Western Roman Empire and current capital of the Ostrogoths is reached by Belisarius and taken for the empire in May of this year.

541

Italy

Troubles abound for Justinian's forces during the next decade as he loses ground in Italy due to fighting in the east. Much of what had already been gained is lost.

552

Iberian Peninsula

With an army 2,000 strong, the empire's forces take several south-eastern cities; the new province of Spania will be founded in the aftermath.

554

Italy

Under Narses, the empire's forces finally prove triumphant against an enemy force of 30,000 and, after protracted fighting, Italy is decisively reclaimed for the empire.

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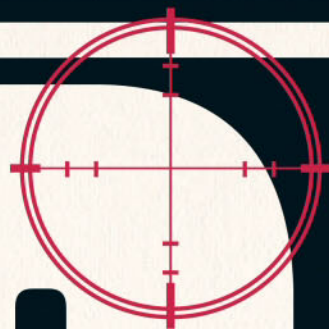
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Written by Scott Reeves



WEIRDEST WEAPONS

From pigeon-guided missiles to bazookas on scooters, discover some of the most unusual armaments ever dreamed up

It is said that war drives innovation, and this old adage is proven true in this wild and wacky list of military inventions. Some didn't make it past the drawing board, others were tried and tested in battle, but one thing is for sure - all of these weapons were developed by people thinking outside of the box.

THE AT-AT GENERAL ELECTRIC WALKING TRUCK



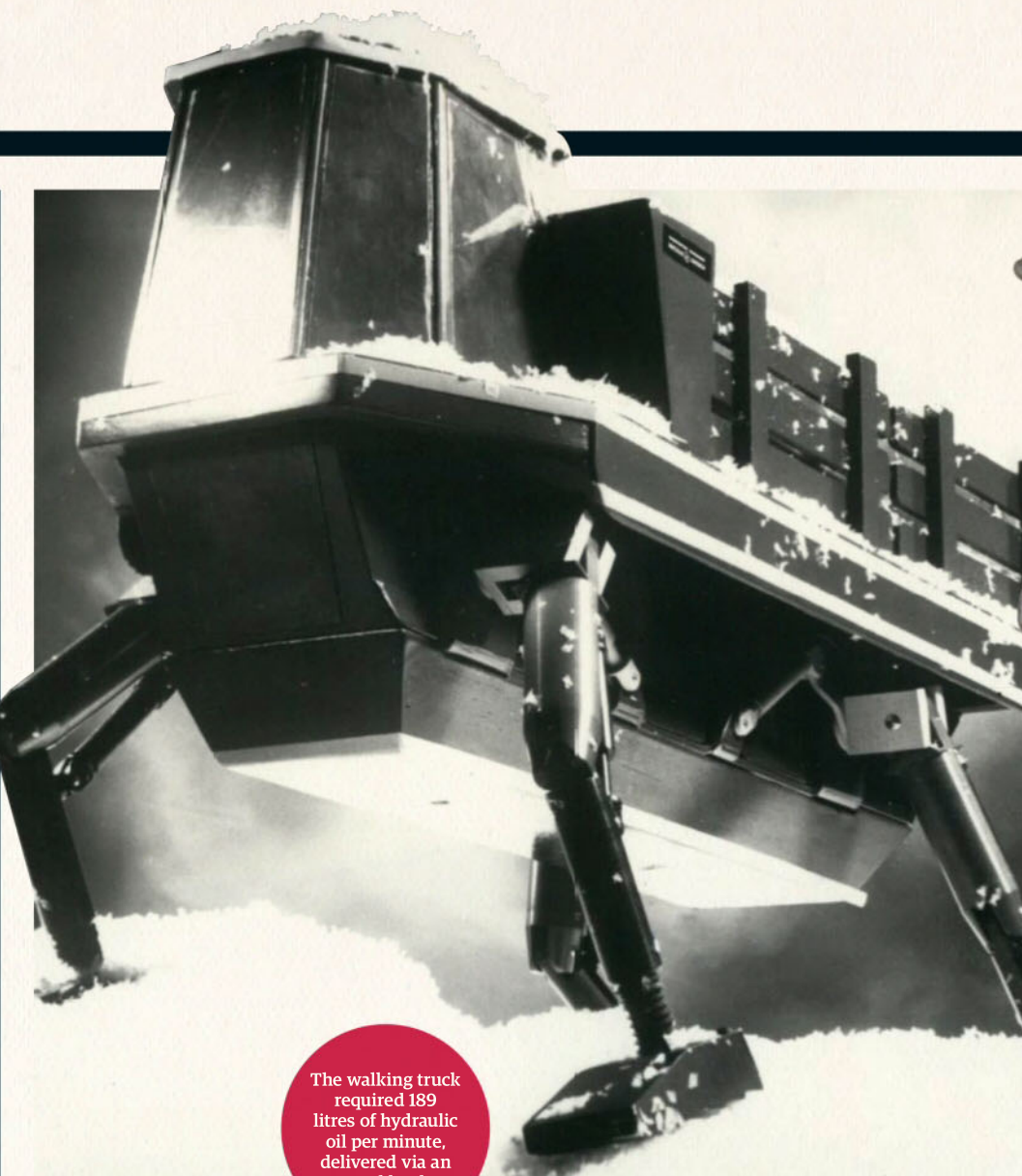
Bearing a striking resemblance to the AT-ATs seen in *Star*

Wars films, the walking truck was ordered by the US Army in 1965 to carry equipment over rough terrain. A four-legged machine controlled by an operator who rode aboard pushing and pulling hydraulic valves, the machine could walk about eight kilometres in an hour and was powerful enough to drag a Jeep. However, driving it was very difficult work - most operators could only manage 15 minutes before exhaustion - and the machine was slow and cumbersome, so the army abandoned the project before General Electric could put it into production.



A twin tail gave as much control as possible, especially at low speeds.

The Soviets eventually perfected the art of air dropping combat vehicles in the mid-70s



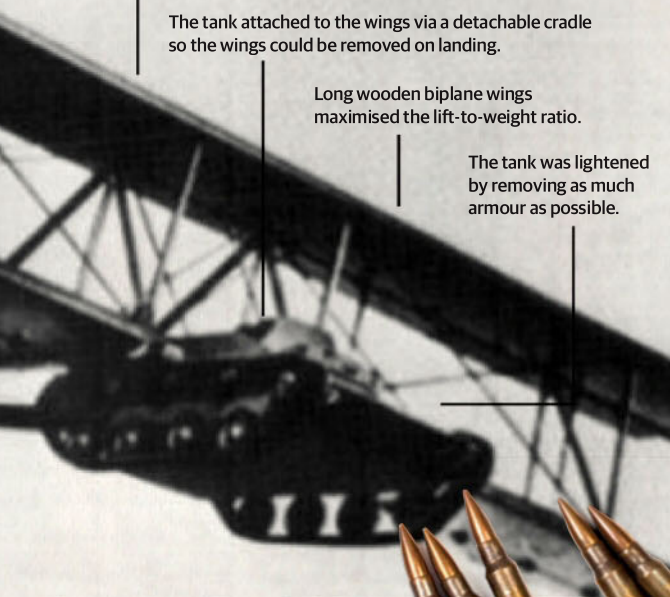
The walking truck required 189 litres of hydraulic oil per minute, delivered via an external hook up

The T-60 was a scout tank primarily used for reconnaissance and rapid movement.

The tank attached to the wings via a detachable cradle so the wings could be removed on landing.

Long wooden biplane wings maximised the lift-to-weight ratio.

The tank was lightened by removing as much armour as possible.



THE FLYING TANK ANTONOV A-40

02

Take a T-60 tank and add 18-metre-long wings and now you have the experimental Antonov A-40, designed to be towed into the air by a bomber and then allowed to glide onto the battlefield. In its only test flight the bomber pilot had to jettison the A-40 early due to heavy drag. Even so, the A-40 managed to land safely and drive back to base, although the project was abandoned due to the lack of a powerful-enough aircraft to tow it.

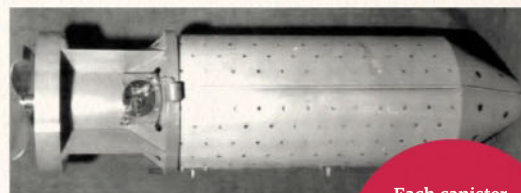


At about 55 centimetres in length, size really did matter for the hunga munga

THE HUNGA MUNGA KPINGA

03

A throwing knife with three different blades to ensure that one edge was always facing the target, the kpinga was used by the Azande in Nubia. The kpinga's distinctive nickname, the hunga munga, is taken from the blade closest to the handle, which was made in the shape of a man's genitals.



Each canister housed more than 1,000 bats, which would set fires over a 60-kilometre radius

THE BAT BOMB PROJECT X-RAY

04

Lytle S Adams was a dentist who must have had an active imagination. Wanting revenge for the attack on Pearl Harbor, he came up with the idea of dropping a parachuted canister that would open to release thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats, each carrying a tiny, timed incendiary bomb. Once they had found places to roost in Japanese roofs, the incendiaries would start fires and set Japanese cities ablaze. Adams's idea was approved by President Roosevelt and researched for two years under the codename Project X-Ray until the atom bomb rendered it unnecessary.

BIRD-GUIDED MISSILES PROJECT PIGEON

05

Before laser-guided missiles, the US military toyed with the idea of using feathered friends to lock their weapons on to a target. Project Pigeon saw three birds put inside a specialist nose cone on a missile, each in front of a screen showing the path of the weapon. The pigeons were trained to recognise their target and peck at it on the screen - if the missile went off-target, the pigeons would peck a different part of the screen and it would correct itself. The animal psychologist in charge of the project complained "no one would take us seriously" despite tests indicating that the results were surprisingly effective - presumably because the pigeons were unflappable under pressure.

Project Pigeon saw birds conditioned by psychologists to recognise their targets



THE FART BOMB WHO ME

06

For two weeks in the early 1940s, the French Resistance attempted to end the Nazi occupation with a fart bomb. Who Me was a top secret stink developed by the USA and distributed to Resistance fighters in pocket sprays. The idea was to subtly squirt German officers, leaving them covered in a sulphurous stench that was strongly reminiscent of faecal matter. The Germans, it was claimed, would be humiliated and demoralised. Within days of its distribution, the Who Me stink bomb experiment was abandoned and French and Germans alike could breathe a huge sigh of relief.

THE FIVE-IN-ONE WEAPON HOOK SWORD

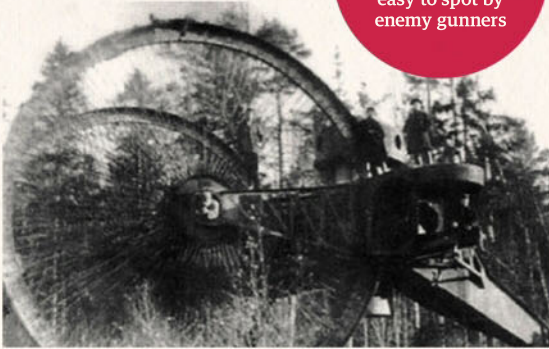
07

Want a multitude of ways to kill your enemy? Try a hook sword. The back of the weapon is a regular sword, but the front blade has a hook to catch an opponent off guard. The hilt is sharpened for stabbing, while the guard is also sharpened for slashing. If that's not enough, the swords can link together to double their reach. Given the immense training required to use them, hook swords were rarely used in battle but became popular in martial arts.

Hook swords may date back as far as the 10th-century Song Dynasty



The high, spoked front wheels would have been easy to spot by enemy gunners



THE TRICYCLE TANK TSAR TANK

08

Tank design was in its infancy during World War I and Russia experimented with this unusual design, which looked like a penny farthing. Rather than using caterpillar tracks, the tank had a tricycle design with nine-metre front wheels and a smaller 1.5-metre rear wheel for steering. Designed to carry cannons that could fire from an elevated position, it quickly became apparent that the tank was underpowered, and the small back wheel kept getting stuck. The prototype was abandoned outside Moscow where it remained for eight years until it was dismantled for scrap in 1923.



Harmonica guns were not restricted to handguns, with rifles also being fitted with the mechanism

THE SLIDING GUN HARMONICA GUN

09

An early attempt to create a multi-shot handgun, the harmonica gun - so called because the slide that contained several chambers holding bullets looked not too dissimilar to the musical instrument - never caught on. It wasn't easy to aim, especially when the slide was sticking out to one side and the user had to move it manually between each shot to reload. Then, once they had finished firing, the gun had to be dismantled before it went in a holster. No surprise that most gun users plumped for the other new multi-shot handgun, the revolver.



This advert for Puckle's gun shows canisters for both round and square bullets

THE RACIST GUN PUCKLE GUN

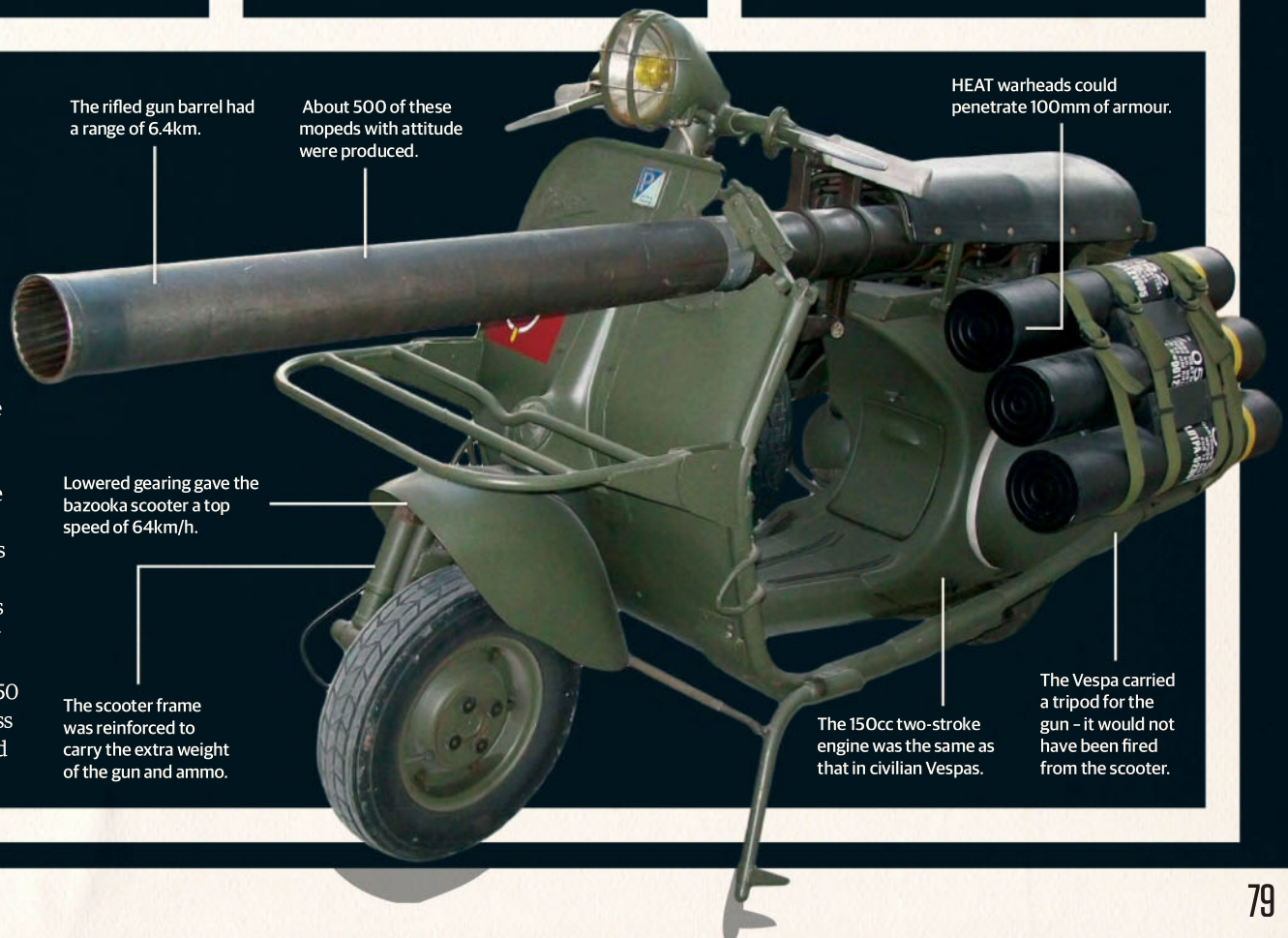
10

In 1718, when Britain was starting to rule the waves, James Puckle invented a gun for use on ships in the event of an attempted boarding. Essentially a flintlock on a tripod with manually operated canisters for reloading ammunition, the Puckle Gun's selling point was adaptability. Not only could it fire round bullets, it could also fire square ones, which did more damage. According to Puckle's patent, the square bullets were specifically designed for use against Muslim Turks and "would convince the Turks of the benefits of Christian civilisation."

THE BAZOOKA SCOOTER VESPA 150 TAP TRUCK

11

Although Vespa scooters are a common sight on the streets of Italy, it was the French army that modified them for use by paratroopers in the late 1950s. Designed to be dropped from the skies in pairs - surrounded by hay bales for protection from a rough landing - one Vespa 150 TAP carried an M20 recoilless rifle while the second carried the ammunition.



The rifled gun barrel had a range of 6.4km.

About 500 of these mopeds with attitude were produced.

HEAT warheads could penetrate 100mm of armour.

Lowered gearing gave the bazooka scooter a top speed of 64km/h.

The scooter frame was reinforced to carry the extra weight of the gun and ammo.

The 150cc two-stroke engine was the same as that in civilian Vespas.

The Vespa carried a tripod for the gun - it would not have been fired from the scooter.



It's not clear whether the gauntlet dagger was a German or Anglo-French invention

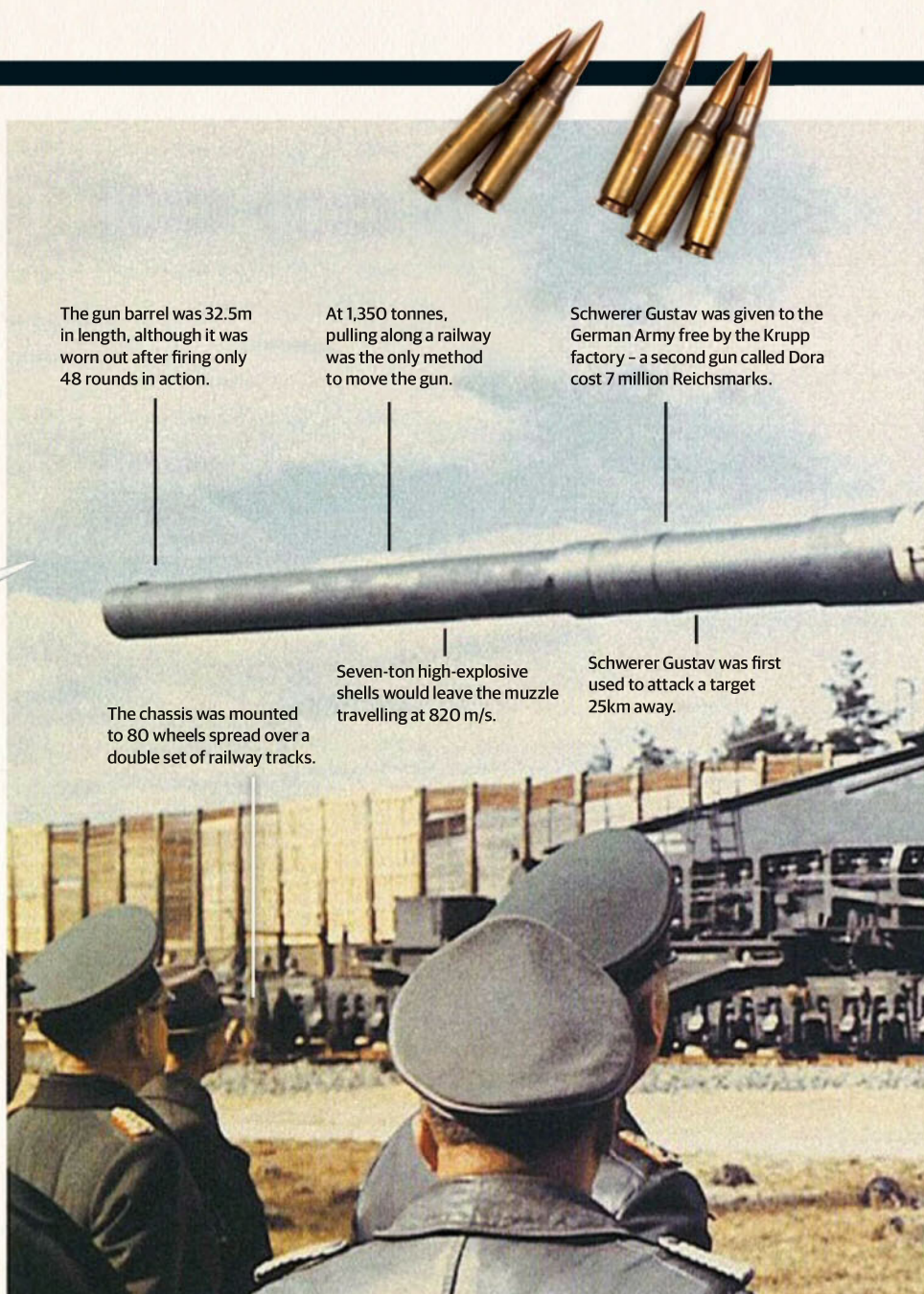
WWI ARMOUR GAUNTLET DAGGER

12

Although it looks like it should belong on a Medieval suit of armour, the gauntlet dagger was actually developed for use by soldiers in World War I. Designed for close-quarters fighting if a soldier found himself in the same trench as his enemy, the crude gauntlet dagger could undoubtedly have caused terrific damage, although it would also have prevented the wearer from firing a gun and could have proved cumbersome, especially if straps were used to fix it in place.



Echoing *Frankenstein*, one CIA officer described Acoustic Kitty as "a monstrosity"



The gun barrel was 32.5m in length, although it was worn out after firing only 48 rounds in action.

At 1,350 tonnes, pulling along a railway was the only method to move the gun.

Schwerer Gustav was given to the German Army free by the Krupp factory – a second gun called Dora cost 7 million Reichsmarks.

The chassis was mounted to 80 wheels spread over a double set of railway tracks.

Seven-ton high-explosive shells would leave the muzzle travelling at 820 m/s.

Schwerer Gustav was first used to attack a target 25km away.

THE SPY CAT ACOUSTIC KITTY

13

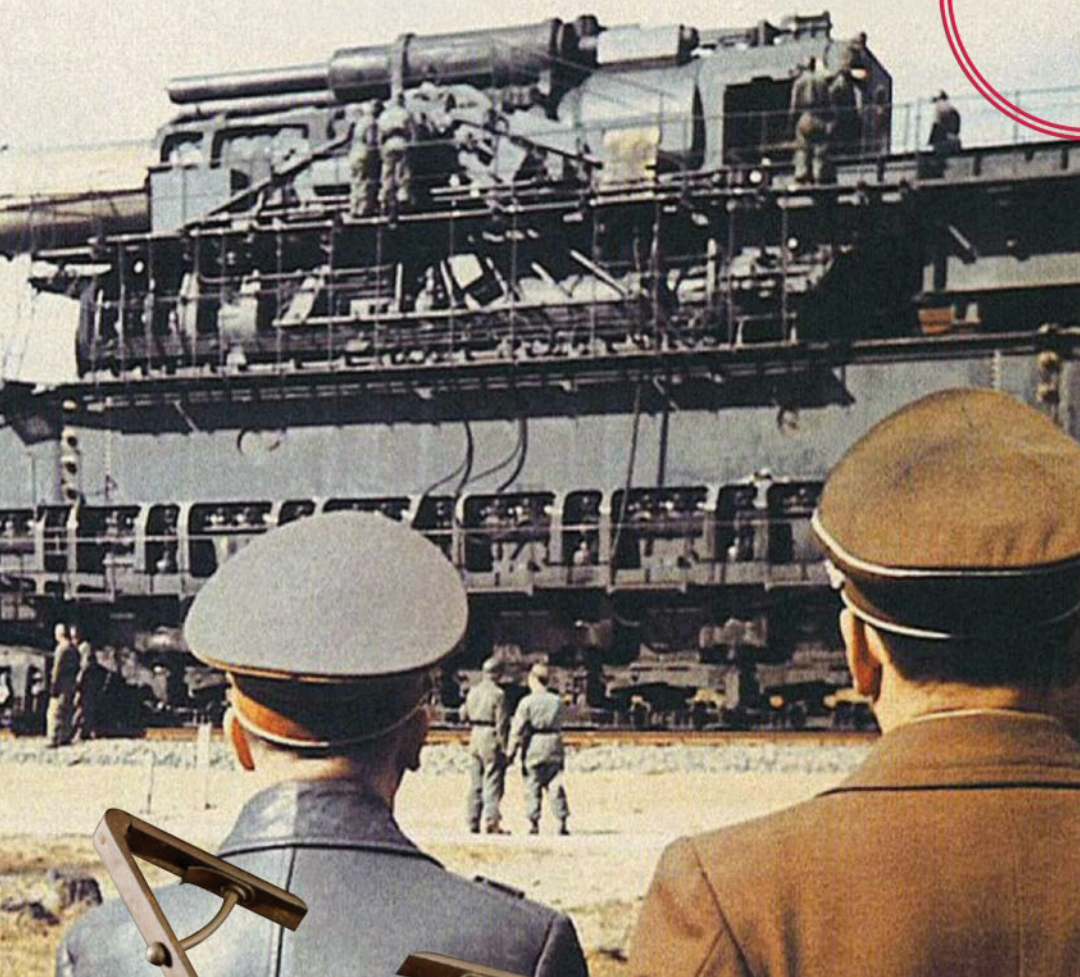
Any cat owner will tell you that getting a moggy to follow orders is easier said than done, so it was surprising that the CIA chose to train one to carry out top-secret spy missions during the Cold War. Given the codename Acoustic Kitty, the project was scrapped after five years and \$10 million without a single successful eavesdrop.

Veterinary surgeons operated on the CIA's animal of choice, implanting a microphone in the cat's ear canal, a small radio transmitter at the base of its skull and a thin wire into its fur. They now had a cat that could listen to private conversations and transmit them to operatives. The only trouble was that the cat was not keen to play along and kept wandering away to go hunting. A second operation followed, this time fitting a cat-sized gastric band to curb the cat's hunger. Now the CIA was confident of success and released the cat outside the Soviet Embassy, hoping to record the conversation of two targets in a nearby park. According to one story, the unfortunate Acoustic Kitty was almost immediately run over by a taxi. Curiosity really did kill the cat.

THE RAILWAY GUN SCHWERER GUSTAV

14

The heaviest mobile artillery gun firing the heaviest shells, Schwerer Gustav was designed in the 1930s with the intention of destroying French fortifications on the Maginot Line. It was not ready by the time Nazi Germany stormed across western Europe, but it did go east to take part in the invasion of the Soviet Union.



It took three days for the fire balloons to cross the Pacific and reach the USA

THE CONTINENTAL DRIFTER FIRE BALLOONS

16

On 5 May 1945, a pastor drove to Gearhart Mountain in Oregon with his pregnant wife and five Sunday school students for a picnic. As they examined a strange balloon they found on the ground, two explosions rang out, killing the wife and the children. Theirs were the only known deaths on the US mainland as a result of enemy action during WWII, but when they occurred, the weapon that caused them had already been abandoned.

Hydrogen balloons loaded with bombs had been launched from Japan and rose high enough to make use of the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean. The aim was to drop high explosives on American cities and use incendiaries to start forest fires. The balloons were the first intercontinental weapon, but more than 9,000 launched and only 300 were ever sighted across North America.

The project was cancelled in April 1945 - the balloon in Oregon had probably landed several weeks earlier and only exploded because it was moved. Yet the Japanese considered using balloons to release anthrax or plague bacteria, while one fire balloon caused a short circuit in power lines supplying nuclear reactor cooling pumps at a Manhattan Project site. Had the backup system not kicked in, the death toll from fire balloons would have been far higher than six.

THE KNIGHT LASSO MAN CATCHER

15

Although it looks nasty, the man catcher was actually a non-lethal weapon used on the Medieval battlefield. The circular hole on the end of a long pole would be jabbed around the neck of a knight on horseback, and spring-loaded spikes would allow the neck to enter but not leave, trapping the knight and pulling him from his steed. Assuming the victim was wearing a suit of armour, they would be unharmed, pinned to the floor and held for ransom.

A variant of the man catcher, a spear with lasso, was used in Papua New Guinea





This painting of the Claw of Archimedes takes the "iron hand" description literally

THE SHIP SINKER CLAW OF ARCHIMEDES

When the Roman Army laid siege to Syracuse, they found that they had to deal with the great mathematician and thinker Archimedes, who was a resident of the city. Helped by his fantastic war inventions, Syracuse held out for three years.

Being a city by the sea, Syracuse was vulnerable to amphibious assault. To destroy the ships before they could land, Archimedes built what ancient writers have called an "iron hand". Although its exact nature is unclear, the Claw seems to have been a crane equipped with a grappling hook, which could seize a ship and either pull it out of the water or capsize it. Although it sounds like something from a fantasy novel, modern experiments have shown that a Claw could have been constructed and could have worked. Even Roman writers concede that the Claw was responsible for many ships being sunk.

If the Roman ships managed to get by the Claw, Archimedes had another plan: a death ray. By organising cliff-top troops carrying large, polished shields into a parabolic semi-circle to reflect the heat of the sun onto one point on a Roman ship, he hoped to set fire to the wood and condemn the sailors to the flames. However, the likelihood of the death ray being effective is questionable.

"If the Roman ships managed to get by the Claw, Archimedes had another plan: a death ray"

THE BEETLE TANK GOLIATH TRACKED MINE

18

The Goliath tracked mine, known to the Allies as the beetle tank, is an often-overlooked weapon used by the Wehrmacht during World War II. More than 7,500 of these mini tanks were produced and

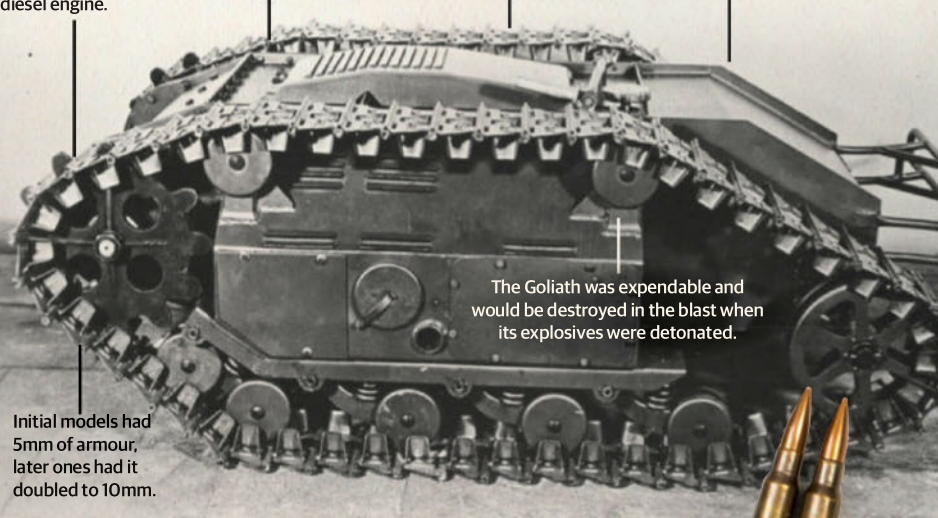
used for a number of different purposes: demolition of buildings and bridges, infiltrating infantry positions and even destroying their bigger tank cousins. Beetle tanks were controlled remotely by joystick with instructions passing down two wires that could reach up to 650 metres; a third wire was used to detonate up to 100 kilograms of explosives. However, the Goliath was expensive, slow, liable to get stuck on uneven ground and vulnerable to fire; by the time of the D-Day invasions, only a few were seen on the beaches, most rendered useless with severed control wires.

Early Goliaths were electric powered; later models had a diesel engine.

At only 1.5m in length, the beetle tank could infiltrate buildings.

With only 11.4cm ground clearance, Goliaths were at constant risk of grounding.

The tracks could carry the Goliath to speeds of 9.5km/h.



Initial models had 5mm of armour, later ones had it doubled to 10mm.

The Goliath was expendable and would be destroyed in the blast when its explosives were detonated.





Akron was only six metres shorter than hydrogen-filled Hindenburg and suffered a similar tragic fate



WELLS'S WEAPONS

When HG Wells wrote his sci-fi novels at the turn of the 20th century, he included such weird and fantastical weapons that readers thought they would never be produced. More than 100 years later, some of his ideas no longer seem quite so unusual and impossible.



TANKS

The Land Ironclads was a 1903 short story in which HG Wells described two entrenched armies and the successful use of heavily armoured, steel vehicles carrying guns to break the stalemate. 13 years later, tanks would make their first appearance on the Western Front.



ATOM BOMB

Written 32 years before the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *The World Set Free* describes a uranium-based hand grenade called an "atomic bomb". Although Wells's atomic bombs did not have the overwhelming force of modern nuclear weapons, he did predict mushroom clouds and lasting damage caused by radiation.



HEAT RAY

The Martian invaders in *The War Of The Worlds* used a heat ray as they tried to take over Earth. Think this one hasn't been invented yet? Think again, the Active Denial System is a non-lethal heat ray that causes an intense burning sensation when directed against enemy troops.

THE FLYING AIRCRAFT CARRIER AKRON AIRSHIPS

19

Often thought to be the stuff of science fiction, the US Navy actually built two airborne aircraft carriers in the 1930s. Both were rigid airships and, at 239 metres in length, are still the largest helium-filled airships ever built. USS Akron entered service in November 1931, followed by its sister ship USS Macon in June 1933. They were capable of carrying five Sparrowhawk biplanes launched and retrieved via a trapeze mechanism that lowered from the airship, releasing and catching the planes mid-flight. These giant aircraft carriers had an effective

range of 11,000 kilometres, the distance from London to Singapore.

Neither airship enjoyed a happy time in service. The accident-prone Akron was catastrophically lost in April 1933; caught in severe weather, it was brought down by erratic gusts of wind and sank in the Atlantic off New Jersey. 73 on board were killed, mostly through drowning or hypothermia caused by the cold water, and only three survived. Two years later, Macon was also forced into the sea by a storm, but this time the descent was controlled and only two crew died. The USA's brief flirt with flying aircraft carriers was over.

THE WOODEN SWORD MACUAHUITL

20

How do you make a sword when you don't know how to make metal?

The Aztecs came up with this clever solution - a wooden sword embedded with obsidian blades to create a cutting edge. According to Spanish conquistadors, a warrior wielding a macuahuitl could decapitate an enemy, and even a horse.



Macuahuitl were used across Mesoamerica, including by the Mayans

What if... Queen Elizabeth I had married?

The Virgin Queen is famous for having never married or producing an heir, but what would have happened to the Tudor dynasty if she had?

Written by Jack Griffiths

Elizabeth's sister and previous Tudor monarch, Mary, had been married to King Phillip II of Spain until her death in 1558. There was a possibility that Elizabeth would marry her half-sister's widower, but neither were particularly interested in the match and Phillip would have only proposed for the good of Catholicism. Elizabeth also realised Phillip had been an unpopular Spanish king with the people of England during his marriage to Mary. Another candidate for the queen's hand was Eric of Sweden, but her advisers believed there would be few benefits from an alliance with the House of Vasa. Elizabeth also insisted on never marrying someone she hadn't seen before, so Archdukes Charles and Ferdinand of Austria were out of the frame, as was John Frederic, duke of Saxony. None of them would risk the public ridicule of journeying to England to face being rejected. As for potential English suitors, Sir William of Pickering and the Earl of Arundel were never considered seriously, while Robert Dudley, who was thought to be Elizabeth's true love, was out of contention due to the rumours that he had murdered his wife. Therefore, the best

choice of husband for Elizabeth I would have been Francis, duke of Alençon. An alliance with France would have supported the English cause against the Spanish, and Alençon had met with Elizabeth on two prior occasions, even sending his servant Jean de Simier to woo the queen on his behalf in January 1579.

With the union of Elizabeth and Alençon, the English and French dynasties join as one. The marriage shocks Spain, which delays its attacks on England, and no armada is ever raised. Alençon postpones campaigns in the Netherlands for the occasion and the French influence on England increases. This isn't welcomed by everyone, and the country begins to tear itself apart socially. The tension simmers for decades, but Elizabeth gives birth to a son, Henry. Being older than her husband, she dies leaving Alençon to rule France and their son to rule England as king. This is not a popular move with vast swathes of the population, as Protestantism is now well established and the idea of a Catholic French king is met with much disdain. Uprisings begin all over the nation and a civil war eventually breaks out in England between

Catholic and Protestant factions. James VI and the Scots join with the Protestant cause while Ireland benefits from a lack of Tudor campaigns in the Emerald Isle. The bloody war means the Stuart dynasty never claims the English crown as the Catholic forces, bolstered by the French, eventually come out on top. There's no union of the crowns, but the opportunity for Scottish armies to move south once again is possible, and they seek to install James's son Charles as a puppet king. The conquest of the New World is now a joint Anglo-French venture as the two powers focus their efforts on nullifying the growing Spanish Empire.

EXPERT: ELIZABETH NORTON



Elizabeth Norton is a historian specialising in the queens of England and the Tudor period. Her most recent book is *The Temptation Of Elizabeth Tudor*, which looked at the relationship between Thomas Seymour and the future Elizabeth I. She has a forthcoming book on *The Lives Of Tudor Women*, which will be published by Head of Zeus, and has also written biographies of four of Henry VIII's wives. Elizabeth is also regularly featured on television and radio.

How would it be different?

Move to marriage

Francis, duke of Alençon, decides the time is right to ask for Elizabeth's hand for a second time and sends a trusty servant over on his behalf.

1578

Royal wedding

A grand wedding is held. The duke postpones his campaigns to the Netherlands, and with a new Anglo-French alliance, there is no war with Spain and no armada. 1581

Royal baby

Fast-forward a few years and Elizabeth gives birth to a son. The child's dual nationality brings England and France closer together in an alliance.

1582

An uncertain royal future

Alençon succeeds to the French throne. Elizabeth divides her time between France and England and the population becomes uneasy over who will be her heir. 1589

Death of Elizabeth

The last Tudor queen's death triggers a changing of the guard. Francis stays on the French throne and installs his young son as the regent of England, surrounded by advisers. 1603

What if... QUEEN ELIZABETH I HAD MARRIED?



A union between Elizabeth and Francis would have helped to heal old wounds between England and France

Path to war

The English public don't take kindly to a French king and there is unrest. A religiously motivated civil war breaks out in the country.

1615

Bloodshed in the capital

The Catholics have support from France while the Protestants are boosted by Scottish aid. The bloody war centres on London with fierce fighting outside Westminster Abbey.

1616

Catholics win the civil war

The superior Anglo-French army manage to hold on to power after a costly conflict. England is rebuilt after civil war but dissent is still felt in some quarters.

1622

England's new international standing

A Catholic England experiences much improved relations with both France and Italy, and the alliance makes Spain its number one rival.

1623

A future of friendship

The Anglo-French monarchy endures for generations with successful expeditions to the New World. There is no union of the crowns and relations with Spain remain frosty.

1624

REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and
films causing a stir in the history world

THE RADIUM GIRLS

A job that made them feel alive eventually killed them

Author Kate Moore **Publisher** Simon & Schuster **Price** £16.99 **Released** Out now

Before the true knowledge of radium's power, the world looked upon it as a shining beacon of hope. Discovered in 1898 by Marie and Pierre Curie, it became a vital ingredient on almost anything from face creams to washing detergents, and then there were the military authorities that specified radium-based paint for compasses, gun sights and watches - instruments that would become invaluable to World War I.

A dial-painting studio opened in Newark, New Jersey, to keep up with the ever-growing demand for radium. As soldiers were called to the front line to fight in battle, the call for timepieces grew, and before long, hundreds of women were "doing their bit" to help in the war, working day and night to paint. However, painting such tiny dials with bulky brushes before factories were invented to do so with precision meant there was only one way to ensure the most precious element on Earth was not wasted: "Dip, lip and paint."

The girls working in the studio were encouraged, by their own accounts, to slip a radium-soaked brush between their lips to keep it fine and their skills on point. Little did they know that years later their health would suffer dramatically, their mouths covered in pussy ulcers, their jaw bones eaten away by an unknown disease. Tumours blossomed where there should have been babies, their spines shattered and their lives fell apart. Working in the factory had always given them such joy, it was sociable, well paid and work was in an abundance in a time when so many were struggling. But their joy turned to despair

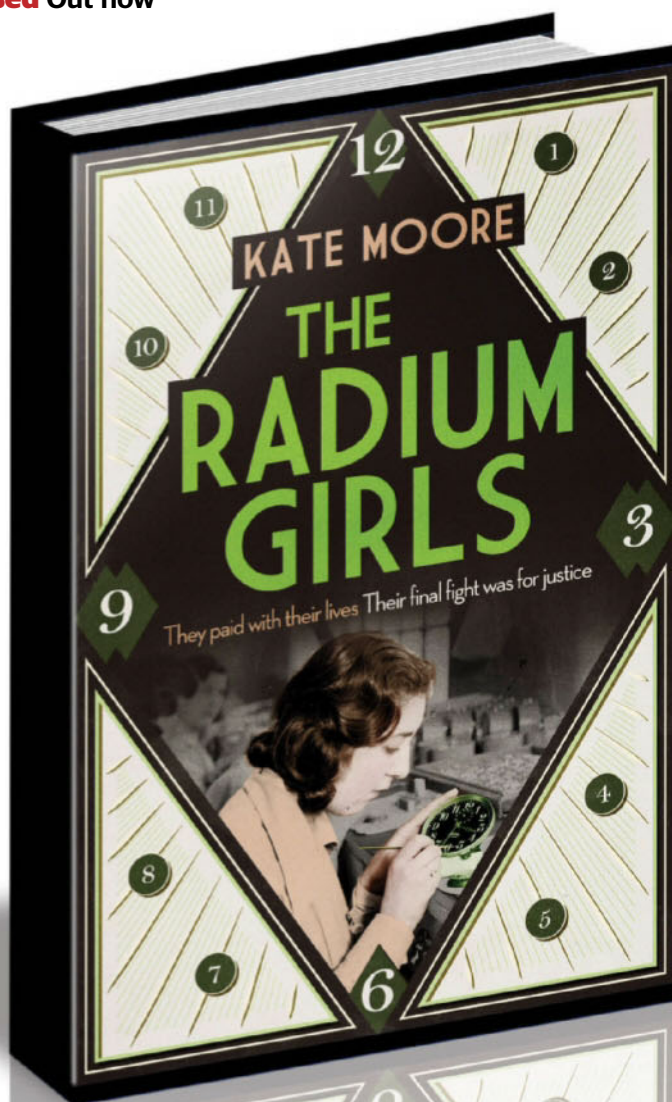
to learn that they were suffering from radium poisoning and that now they were the ones in need.

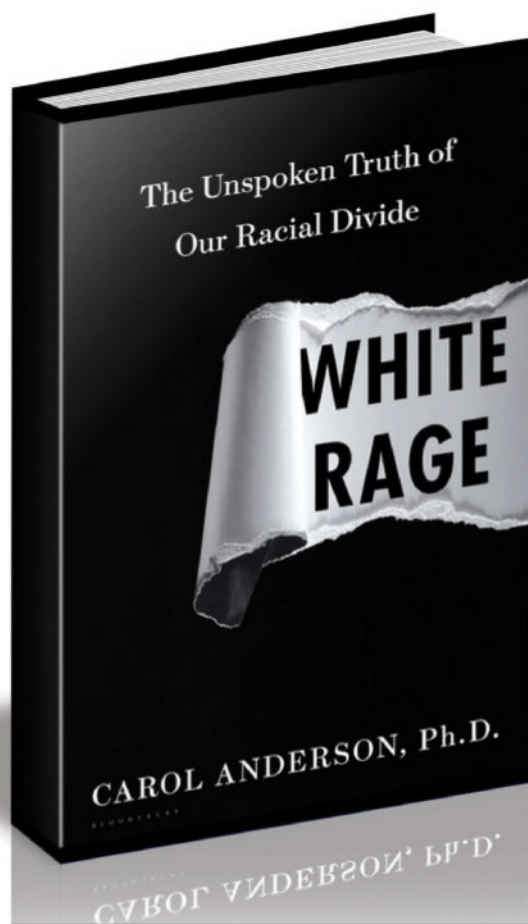
Previously unpublished sources including letters and diary entries make this book a rare insight to something that reads like scenes from a horror film, but in fact the story is a very real one - the story of how these women pioneered workers' rights and became a part of a medical advancement that would go on to save others' lives at the expense of their own. Realising their colleagues were dropping like flies after having come into contact with the radium years previously, the women fought for justice and refused to accept their fate quietly. All the while, a cure for their ailment was unknown.

Moore writes in a very characteristic style and sets a scene well, showing the highlights of the early 1900s and how these women were working to establish their independence away from their husbands and families, to provide themselves with what they thought would be a better life. The author perfectly captures the gruesome and terrifying details of a very real struggle that occurred only 100 years ago.

Radium Girls is engaging and hugely informative, showing that the struggles of the medical world went beyond the soldiers injured in the war. This book is a must-read for those interested in medicine through the ages, and the struggle to combat a disease never before seen by doctors at the time.

"Letters and diary entries make this book a rare insight to something that reads like scenes from a horror film, but in fact the story is a very real one"





WHITE RAGE

A timely look at the racial divide and its legacy

Author Carol Anderson, PhD **Publisher** Bloomsbury

Price £18.99 **Released** Out now

“With so much attention on the flames, everyone had ignored the kindling,” wrote Carol Anderson about the 2014 riots in Ferguson, the United States of America. This was the historian’s op-ed in the *Washington Post*, which put the notion of what was being broadly referred to by the media as ‘Black Rage’ into sharp perspective. The riots in the black communities of this Missouri town might have been sparked by the shooting of Michael Brown, but the shooting itself by white Missouri police officer Darren Wilson is symptomatic of something far more insidious that has its roots in the end of the American Civil War.

In *White Rage*, Anderson details a US socio-political phenomenon that’s so deep-seated that it has barely registered in the collective consciousness of the layman – even this side of the millennium where the racial barriers are crumbling and the USA is supposed to be

a land of equal opportunity for all. Anderson starts with the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the US, and moves through post-civil war history showing that, for every time black Americans have made legitimate movement towards achieving equal rights, these opportunities have been sabotaged. Sometimes this happens through creative application of the law and, far too frequently, through white-on-black violence. This is an especially pertinent tome in the wake of the spate of police shootings across the United States.

Anderson examines how sentiments of the past, like the idea that black people were being given preferential treatment when legislation was drawn up to afford them basic rights of citizenship, are being echoed in the ‘All Lives Matter’ movement. *White Rage* is a gut-wrenching, compelling read and will certainly be an eye-opener for anyone unaffected by this kind of discrimination on the other side of the Atlantic.

VERSAILLES

Who knew the Sun King was so saucy?

Certificate 18 **Creators** Simon Mirren and David Wolstencroft

Distributor Universal Pictures UK **Cast** George Blagden, Alexander Vlahos,

Anna Brewster, Stuart Bowman, Noémie Schmidt **Released** Out now



The arrival of the French-Canadian co-production *Versailles* on British shores was something of a minor cause célèbre. Offering plenty of sex, soap and saucy intrigue, it was bound to catch a fair bit of attention with viewers desperate for their weekly dose of bodice-ripping in between seasons of *Poldark*.

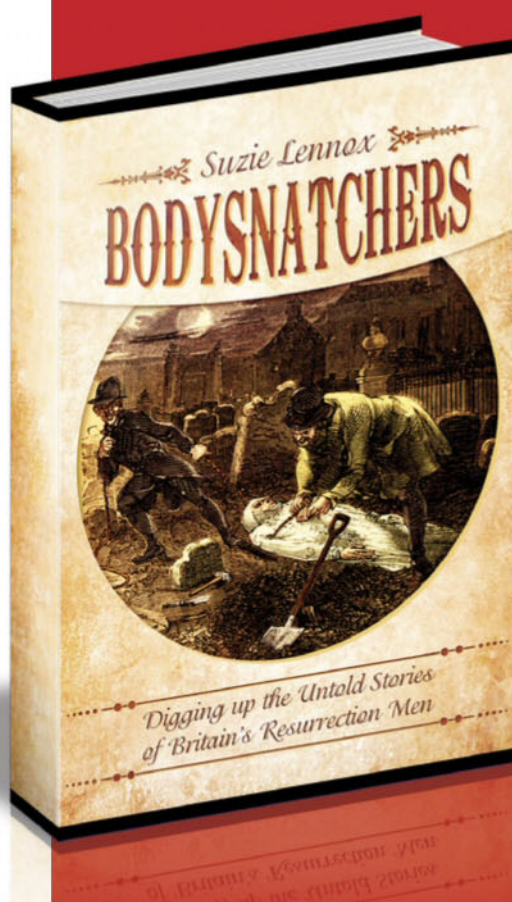
Part spicy historical romance and part lavish Hollywood epic, *Versailles* doesn’t set out to be a historically accurate retelling of the formative years of the Sun King. Although it takes itself remarkably seriously, the facts are never allowed to get in the way of its tale of court scheming, Machiavellian nobles and fabulously glossy hair. There’s plenty of eyebrow-raising bawdiness, of course, and a fair bit of swashbuckling too as Louis and his loyal friends fight against the villains who would threaten his reign, while still finding time to keep his moustache groomed and his ladies happy.

Although the cast is made up of not very familiar faces from a multitude of nations, the real star of *Versailles* isn’t George Blagden’s Louis, but the jaw-dropping production design. With a £24 million budget to play with, no expense was spared in bringing the magnificent Bourbon court back to glittering life.

The costumes are breathtakingly lush and location filming at the real Palace of Versailles in France lends an air of luxurious authenticity that the script simply cannot match. Some of the dialogue might raise an unintended smile in more experienced hands but one or two of the cast are so stiff that they can’t even manage to make it accidentally comical.

If you’re hoping for a serious look at the reign of Louis XIV, this isn’t for you. If, however, you like your soap opera with the occasional bit of swordplay, sauciness and swagger, this might be right up your rue.





BODYSNATCHERS

DIGGING UP THE UNTOLD STORIES OF
BRITAIN'S RESURRECTION MEN

Grab your shovel and unearth some grisly tales

Author Suzie Lennox **Publisher** Pen and Sword **Price** £12.99 **Released** Out now

Picture the scene: an Edinburgh churchyard at midnight, the only sounds that of an owl's hoot and the steady scrape of a spade digging deep into a fresh grave as the resurrectionists go about their gruesome business. Suzie Lennox's new book takes readers back in time to the 18th and 19th centuries to dig up some stories of men that history has long since forgotten. While names such as Burke and Hare have become notorious, Lennox introduces us to plenty of lesser-known individuals that kept the anatomy schools provided with raw materials for almost a century.

Thanks to these shadowy characters, medical students were never short of a cadaver to dissect and schools paid handsomely for the wares that the likes of Henry Gillies provided. With no questions asked, the bodysnatchers soon became figures of fear, moving by night and showing

little respect to the British dead. Although the book isn't short on gruesome stories and stomach churning moments, its strength undoubtedly lies in the way Lennox considers the wider implications of the bodysnatcher's trade and how their immoral work allowed for continuing medical research and study. She skilfully weaves a tapestry of criminal and surgical connections, teasing out the names that history has forgotten and placing them in a richly written social narrative.

Lennox handles this very specialist subject with an authoritative air and hugely entertaining, evocative style. It is to her credit that she resists the temptation to stray into sensationalism, even when the material virtually invites it. She brings the Georgian underworld vividly back to life and in doing so, rightly resurrects some colourful characters that might otherwise never have seen the light of day again.

HISTORY WAR

RECOMMENDS...

Postcards From The Front

Author: Kate J Cole **Price:** £14.99
Publisher: Amberley Publishing



For soldiers serving in World War I on the Western Front, postcards provided quick communication with home, often scribbled on breaks from marching;

postcards were the counterpoint to the considered letter. Cole shows the pictures chosen by soldiers serving, as well as reproducing the messages, thus serving to confirm the notion that the British are obsessed with the weather: seemingly every postcard includes a comment on the climate, while generally eschewing any mention of the actual war, highlighting the stoicism of the men and women of the time.

DADLAND A JOURNEY INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Author Keggie Carew embarks on a journey
to piece together her father's history

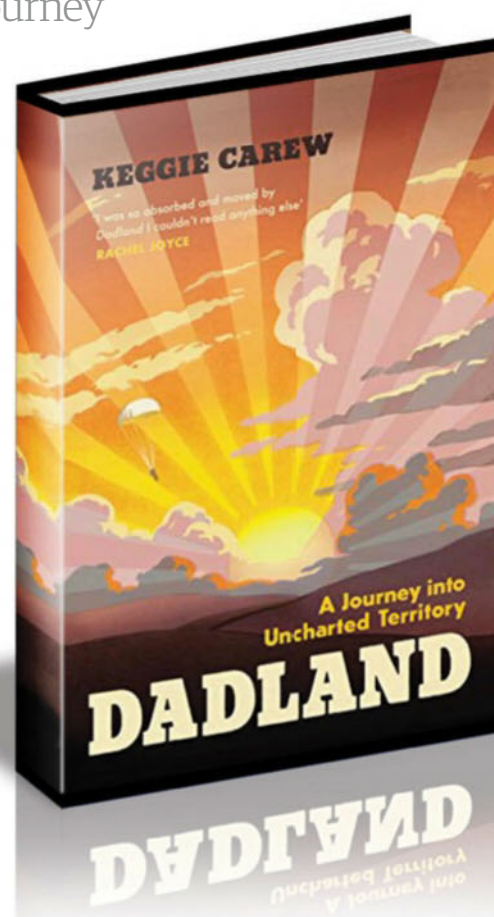
Author Keggie Carew **Publisher** Chatto & Windus
Price £18.99 **Released** Out now

For many, our first taste of history comes from our parents and grandparents. Their stories open up a world of wartime heroes, fashion faux pas and a time before the internet. But what happens when that family member can no longer tell you those stories, because they don't remember anymore? That is the sad reality in *Dadland*, in which author Carew attempts to unravel and reassemble the patchwork of memories that belong to her elderly father, a shadow of the man formerly known as 'Lawrence of Burma'.

In his youth, he was a spy in an elite SOE unit called the Jedburghs, a "left-handed Maverick" whose military

achievements and lady-killer ways could inspire a great stylish blockbuster. Instead, however, Carew's account of her father's past life takes on a different tone, the mystery and secrecy of her father's espionage now ironically mirrored by his inability to remember most of his adventures due to dementia.

The private recollections of a real flesh and blood person are always far more interesting than dusty history books, and often much more valuable in terms of how we come to understand our previous generations. Carew's conflicting feelings towards her ailing father and the man he once was are sure to capture the imagination of anyone hoping to relive an old spy's adventures.



THE THAMES THROUGH TIME

A photographic journey 150 years into the past

Author Stephen Croad **Publisher** Batsford

Price £20 **Released** 8 September 2016



Horse-drawn carts clattering along the Old London Bridge, mist-strewn scenes of Dickensian coal wharf, and the unforgettable sight of thousands of top hat-clad, parasol-toting supporters gathering to watch the University Boat Race in 1870. These are just some of the 200 sights to see inside this beautifully presented hardback – a compilation of photographs from the last 150 years that capture the ebb and flow of the Thames. It was collated by Stephen Croad, the former head of the architectural record at the National Monuments Board, which was set up to protect our history from the threat of aerial bombing in WWII. The fact that it can produce treasures like this tome stands as a testament to the range of material on the capital that has been preserved for generations.



The first bridge to span the river at Maidenhead was built in 1803. It was a simple stone bridge, but it was the first to be built with iron. It was built by James Fowler and it was the first to be built with iron. It was built by James Fowler and it was the first to be built with iron.



These two views show the first of London's bridges. The first bridge was built in 1803. It was a simple stone bridge, but it was the first to be built with iron. It was built by James Fowler and it was the first to be built with iron.

The first bridge to span the river at Maidenhead was built in 1803. It was a simple stone bridge, but it was the first to be built with iron. It was built by James Fowler and it was the first to be built with iron.



THE SOMME 1916 – FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE WIRE

Shattering truths and wartime myths collide

Creator Peter Barton **Distributor** Spirit Entertainment Limited

Presenter Peter Barton **Released** Out now



On 1 July 1916, one of the World War I's bloodiest conflicts took place. The Battle of the Somme resulted in the death or injury of more than 1 million men. It's a story that is well known and oft repeated, but how much of what we know is true?

Military historian and battlefield archaeologist Peter Barton proved an amiable and suitably characterful presence in BBC 2's major new three-part documentary. Whether visiting the archives or striding over the battlefield in a show-stopping hat, there was no doubt we were in safe hands.

Over three hours, Barton set out to separate the truth of the Somme from the legend with the help of a long-sealed archive of German military papers. In a refreshing and unique twist, Barton told the

story not only from the British perspective, but from that of Germany's soldiers too.

Barton managed the difficult feat of being both authoritative and accessible with consummate ease, clearly establishing not only the careful planning of the German commanders, but the mistakes of the British. Meanwhile, his dissection of the aftermath brought home the cost of the battle from the highest general to the lowliest Tommy. Original letters and papers laid bare the shattering experience of the Somme while film footage captured men laughing on their way to war, little able to imagine the fate that awaited them.

In a year that has not been short on programmes that commemorated the battle, *The Somme 1916: From Both Sides Of The Wire* stands out. You may think, after 100 years, that there is nothing left to tell about this fascinating subject; this three-part series might just change your mind.

How to make... SAXON RYE BREAD

WHOLESOME LOAVES FOR DUNKING IN STEW
ENGLAND AND EUROPE, 420-PRESENT

Ingredients

- 250g wholemeal flour
- 130g rye flour
- 7g dry instant yeast
- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Jug of warm water (around 250-300ml)

METHOD

The average Anglo-Saxon lived on a diet made up of meat such as deer and wild boar, vegetables for hearty stews, grain crops for flour, and barley, which made beer to wash down the feast. Bread was a mealtime staple, but for some, a bite of Saxon rye bread could lead to much more than a full belly. Crops of rye are susceptible to infection by the *Claviceps purpurea* fungus, which causes ergot. When the infected rye was ground into flour and baked in bread, the eater was poisoned with what we now know as ergotism. Sufferers would experience convulsions, insanity, hallucinations and even lose limbs to gangrene. Here you can learn how to make rye bread the Saxon way, without the hallucinogenic trips.

01 In a jug, mix the dried yeast with the sugar and 50ml of warm (but not hot) water. This is a step for modern convenience – the Saxons didn't have the luxury of dried yeast. They also didn't have sugar, and used just honey for sweetness.

02 Set the sugar, yeast and water aside for ten minutes to allow the yeast to develop, and combine the flour in a big bowl with the salt.

03 Add a small amount of warm water to the flour, along with the honey. Mix a little and then add the water and yeast.

04 Continue mixing while slowly adding warm water until you have a doughy consistency. Rye flour

absorbs lots more water than wheat so keep an eye on the texture.

05 Once your dough has come together in the bowl, transfer to a floured surface and knead it for a few minutes. Then pop it back into the bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave in a warm place for one hour so it can rise.

06 When the dough has visibly risen, shape it into a loaf and dust with flour before placing on a baking tray. Bake in a preheated oven at 220 degrees Celsius for 40-45 minutes until browned.

07 Once the loaf is baked, leave to cool on a wire tray before enjoying with traditional pottage and beer.

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Sydney Opera House under construction (detail), 1966. Courtesy of Max Dupain Archives/ Eric Sierins

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What are the origins of British royalty?

Patricia Johnson

In Britain, Roman rule ended in around the year 410. The Roman Empire was under threat from invasion by Germanic clans and so all Roman soldiers were called back to the continent to fight. This marks the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon conquest. At the time, England was divided into the Heptarchy, a *Game Of Thrones*-esque seven kingdoms of varying sizes, each with its own ruler.

The Kingdom of Wessex (covering modern-day Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset) was the largest and most influential. King Egbert, who came to the throne in 802, was the first king to

unify much of the south and ruled all of England south of the Humber. His dynasty, the House of Wessex, continued to reign until the arrival of William the conqueror in 1066.

With the backing of the pope, William invaded England to claim the throne that he was promised by King Edward the Confessor, one of the last kings of Wessex and who had failed to produce an heir. After invasion, he was proclaimed king of all England and supported his reign by forming a new Norman aristocracy. This unified kingdom provided the basis for the dynasties of royal houses throughout the ages.

Who was the richest man on the Titanic?

Michael James

American businessman and investor John Jacob Astor IV is listed as the wealthiest passenger aboard the Titanic. He was returning to the USA from a long honeymoon with his second wife Madeline, who was five months pregnant. Astor was a descendant of the USA's first multi-millionaire, a German-American called Johann Jakob Astor, and made his money through building and investment among other endeavours. He had also served as a lieutenant colonel in the Spanish-American war.

On the night of 14 April 1912 when Titanic collided with an iceberg, Astor put his wife into a lifeboat and she was able to escape with her life and that of her baby. However, Astor was not so fortunate. His body was recovered on 22 April, and identified by the initials on his clothing. Astor was also carrying a gold pocket watch that his son (born in August 1912) later claimed.



This day in history 18 August

1227

Genghis Khan dies

In his life, the Mongol leader united Mongolian nomadic tribes and conquered land across Asia to create the largest empire in history. He dies after leading his armies on one final campaign in the kingdom of Xixia.

1868

Helium is discovered

French astronomer Jules Janssen finds the first evidence of helium during a solar eclipse, as he notices a bright yellow spectral line emanating from the Sun. From this initial observation, a new element is discovered: helium.



1920

Women's suffrage achieved in the US

Nashville legislators pass the amendment to give women the vote. Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify, and so women's suffrage becomes law throughout the entire US.



1931

Floods devastate China

Prolonged adverse weather conditions cause the rivers of eastern China to flood on a mass scale. The rushing waters are responsible for at least 140,000 deaths from drowning, debris or diseases.

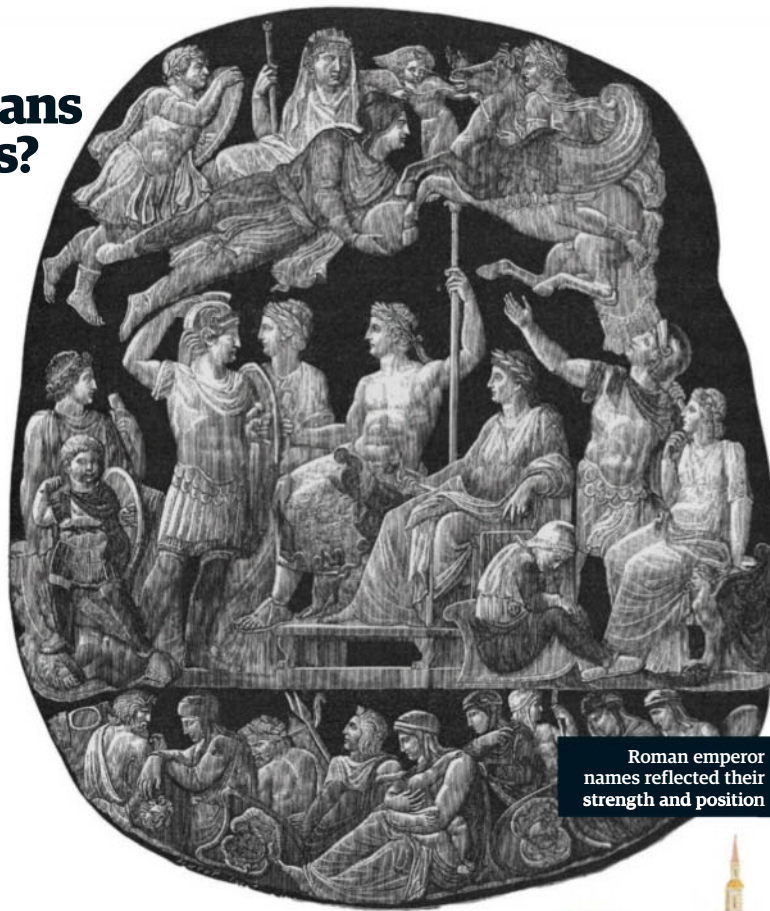
What did the Romans call their emperors?

David Palmer

While we use simple names (like Titus, Nero and Augustus) to distinguish the individual Roman emperors, they themselves would frequently adopt new names to reflect their accomplishments or strength. They would also include titles in their names as well as those of their chosen successors.

The name Caesar evolved from its beginnings as the name of an inspiring Roman dictator to a title to be used by an emperor. Imperator means 'commander', and emperors could also call themselves Augustus, which meant 'great' or 'venerable', among many other names.

For example, the man we refer to as Tiberius was born Tiberius Claudius Nero. Yet when he became emperor in 14 CE, his name became Imperator Tiberius Caesar Augustus.



Roman emperor names reflected their strength and position

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@MilesKing10

Really like the new edition of
@AboutHistoryMag
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@AboutHistoryMag My highlight of this month's issue was the article on the #BattleOfIwoJima
@lphanlon84

@AboutHistoryMag Researching my family history I discovered my great grandma spent most of her life in a lunatic asylum! @chiprocky

Chinese Hopping Vampires: The Qing Dynasty roots behind the Jiangshi legend (via @AboutHistoryMag) @s684a

How one of the greatest last stands of all time was fought courtesy of
@AboutHistoryMag
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Read about how Elizabeth I's English Armada ended in humiliation at
historyanswers.co.uk



Columbus left Palos, Spain, on the Santa Maria in 1492 to discover the New World

Where was the first colony in the New World?

Abigail Parker

Although the first colony in what is now the USA was Jamestown, Virginia (established in 1607), the very first colony of the New World was formed by Christopher Columbus in 1493, following his initial discovery in

1492. Columbus sailed with 17 ships carrying 1,500 men and called his colony La Isabela, situated on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The colony did not survive long, and in 1496, Columbus ordered a new town to be built.

1939

Euthanasia program begins

Hitler's Aktion T4 begins, as a decree is circulated forcing doctors to report children with mental or physical disabilities. Parents are encouraged to give up their children to 'paediatric clinics', which are really euthanasia centres.

1964

Olympic ban

South Africa is banned from the Olympic Games in Tokyo, as the government refuses to end racial discrimination and allow multiracial sporting competition. The ban would be lifted for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

1965

Operation Starlite

The first major battle of the Vietnam war is launched. The US military had received intelligence of an imminent Vietcong attack on the base of Chu Lai, and so launches a successful amphibious attack involving 5,500 Marines.



1991

Attempted anti-Gorbachev coup

KGB members attempt a poorly conceived coup to overthrow the Soviet government. The coup fails and is over in three days, marking the beginning of the end of the USSR.

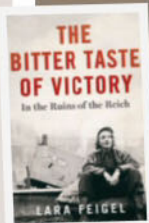


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Hannah was brought to the newly built Liverpool Royal Infirmary, where she died three weeks after her husband

Drawn from the drain



Chrissie Lawton

A recent trip to the Victorian Childhood exhibit in the Liverpool Museum got me thinking about tracing my grandfather's family. He would have been about ten years old in the 1900s, but we knew almost nothing about his past, and he refused to speak about it. The assumption was he had no family, which had always saddened my dad.

After a brief search, I found him in the 1901 census, aged nine, living with his parents, George and Hannah Lawton, and his three younger brothers in an area of Liverpool called Much Woolton. His father was a master painter and plumber, and ran a family business in Woolton Street. Further research revealed the business had been in the family for three generations. As the eldest son, my granddad would have been groomed as an apprentice, just as his father and grandfather had been before him. The emerging picture showed a loving and prosperous family yet by the census

of 1911, the family had disappeared. What had happened in those crucial ten years?

A logical starting point was to trace the fate of my great-grandfather, George. I imagined that the job of a Victorian plumber was not for the fainthearted! Victorian Liverpool, like many other industrialised cities, suffered poverty, overcrowding and poor sanitation. Open 'middens', sewers and drains were common and natural breeding grounds for disease. Many areas around the northwest were classed as "fever dens" of cholera and typhoid, and, as a plumber, George would have been particularly vulnerable. "Draw from the drain its typhoid germ," wrote Rudyard Kipling in 1884. Sure enough, death certificates document not only George's death from typhoid in 1902 but my great-grandmother, Hannah's, as well. Tragically they had passed away within a month of each other.

Clinical papers of the time report that the insidious onset of typhoid was deceptive. With an incubation period of about two weeks, and marked by a flu-like malaise and headache, it was

Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk

DEATH in the Sub-district of Mount Pleasant in the County of Liverpool

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature and residence of registrar
10th September 1902 at primary at	Hannah Lawton	Female	33 Years	Widow of George Lawton Painter (Master) Woolton Street	Enteric Fever Perforation of ulcer in intestines Certified by M.D. No. 11	Arthur H Jones Brother Macdonald Street Woolton	10th September 1902	Geo. Nichol Registrar

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GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 4406918-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	PRESCOT
1902 DEATH in the Sub-district of Much Woolton	in the County of Lancaster

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
366	10th September 1902 at primary at	George Lawton	Male	38 Years	Painter (Master) Woolton Street	Typhoid Fever Perforation of ulcer in intestines Certified by M.D. No. 11	Arthur H Jones Brother Macdonald Street Woolton	10th September 1902	Geo. Nichol Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

17th day of October 2012

DYD 377226

See note overleaf

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The death certificates of George and Hannah Lawton, who died of typhoid

often mistaken for a simple fever. Stories of victims continuing to work until overcome with illness were common. I found out that George died at home, which suggests he may have struggled on until the more aggressive symptoms took hold.

With no NHS or social services, the family would have had to rally round. My research shows that the two eldest children (my grandfather and his brother) were sent to stay with their maternal uncle, and the younger children with a paternal aunt. Hannah would have nursed George herself, probably contracting the disease before she knew what was wrong with him. She was taken to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, where she died three weeks after George. The children never came home.

The impact of disease and lack of social support on the lives of ordinary working people is often

viewed by historians through a dispassionate lens, and recorded in a series of events and dates. Using my family tree to research the social history of Victorian Liverpool in this way revealed the heart-breaking reality behind just two of the statistics.

Various public health acts report that much had already been done, "...to improve sewerage, water supplies and street cleaning." But in 1902, sporadic outbreaks of the disease were clearly still devastating communities, and for the families of the victims, like my grandfather, life would never be the same.

I was worried about telling my parents the tragic tale I had uncovered, but my father was sanguine. The news was comforting. His dad survived because he was loved, he said, and that makes all the difference.



A photo of Chrissie's grandfather, aged 21

Do you have any family stories to share?

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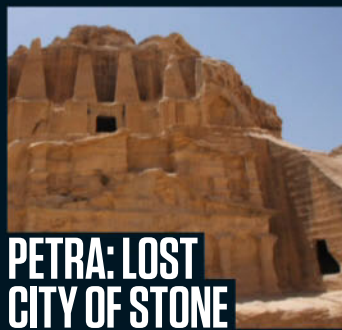
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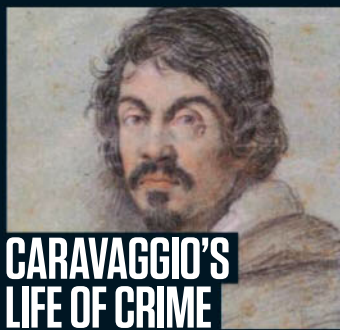
THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

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HISTORY HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



THE WATER DIVINER

Director: Russell Crowe **Starring:** Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko, Jai Courtney **Country:** Australia-USA **Released:** 2014

How much does this post-World War I drama rewrite history?

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 The film purports to be “inspired by true events” but it would be more accurate to say “inspired by a single apocryphal report of a father who was found in Gallipoli looking for his dead son.” There’s literally nothing else to the story that the 111-minutes are based on.

02 The film opens with an Ottoman attack on the deserted Anzac positions on a sunny day, with men clad in tunics and shirts. The evacuation took place December 1915 to January 1916 and it was so cold that soldiers suffered from frostbite and hypothermia.

03 The first British soldier that Russell Crowe’s grieving father meets in Constantinople sports a beard, which is against regulations. Even allowing for the fact fighting has ended and everyone’s demob-happy, it’s unlikely he’d be boasting such a bountiful bush.

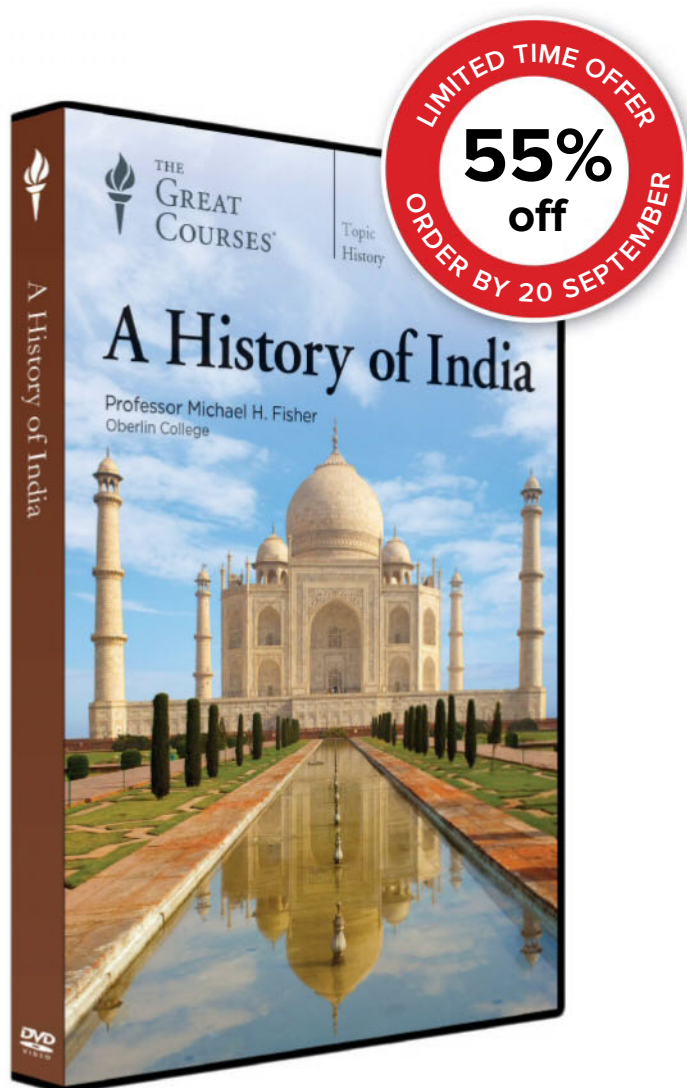
04 The film tells us that 7,000 men were killed at the Battle for Lone Pine – that’s actually closer to the total number of casualties for both sides, dead and wounded. Also, one of the sons in the 7th Battalion dies on 7 August, but they didn’t fight on that day.

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

VERDICT Tonally it’s a bit *Captain Corelli’s Mandolin*, but where Crowe got most of his history from Peter Wier’s *Gallipoli*, *Mandolin* at least engaged with the ugliness behind the romance.

The political instability, demonstrations and secret meetings in Constantinople are likely to be a fair reflection of the atmosphere. Obviously it’s romanticised and some of the darker aspects of the era, such as the Armenian Genocide, don’t get a look in, but there’s a real sense that a volcano is bubbling away under the surface.





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